

SPORTS/B1

Men's track and field team wins Big Sky Indoor Championships; Women's team places 6th

OPINION/A7

Editorial: Campus finds innovative ways to increase black population
Darnell: WPE improves writing skills
Allen: Respect quiet study areas



FEATURES/B4

New signs designed by Sac State graphics design students; some find signs helpful

THE STATE HORNET

www.statehornet.com

Est. 1949 | California State University, Sacramento | February 28, 2007 | Issue 5 | Volume 59 No. 19 | One Copy Free

Man assaults woman near Library, police say

Speaking on condition of anonymity, student says she was on her way to a class

JAMIE GONZALES
State Hornet

A sexual assault victim's voice shook over the phone Feb. 20.

She agreed to tell her story to The State Hornet on the condition of anonymity. She wanted her story to be told to protect other students from being assaulted.

She was on her way to class in the lower level of the Library on Feb. 10. Michael Vo, a homeless person known to students at Sacramento State, said hello to her and waved.

She had seen him numerous times before that day and, like before, was pleasant to him. He approached her in front of the double doors of the Library, she said. She thought by his body language that he was going to give her a hug.

That is when he grabbed her by the shoulder and touched her left breast. She said she was shocked; she just stood there.

He asked her if she would like to have lunch with him.

"No, I have a boyfriend," she said. When he said he would give her $3, she ran away to her classroom. She gathered enough courage to tell a classmate and her professor.

Her professor took her to the service desk at the Library, where Frankie Michaelson, library assistant and head of security, met with her. After calling Campus Police, Michaelson and the police secured the building and reviewed the tapes from several of the video cameras above the double doors of the Library.

Vo was arrested later that afternoon. The victim recognized and identified the 56-year-old Asian man with shoulder-length grey hair in a green overcoat.

Sent to county jail for violating California Penal Code 243.4, Vo was released on Monday, the victim said.

California PC 243.4 states that "Any person who touches an intimate part of another person while that person is unlawfully restrained by the accused or an accomplice, and if the touching is against the will of the person touched and is for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratifica-

ASSAULT: Page A3



REBECCA MASTON/STATE HORNET FILE PHOTO

Senior Curtis Grima, wearing a black cap, speaks with students during ASI's spring 2006 elections, when he ran for ASI president.

ASI president nominates EVP

Nominee Curtis Grima needs a majority vote at today's meeting for post

JAQUELINE TUALLA
State Hornet

President Jesus Andrade nominated Curtis Grima, a senior government-journalism major, as Associated Students Inc. executive vice president on Wednesday at a working board meeting.

"There's a very good chance (that he'll get appointed)," Andrade said. ASI is expected to vote today on the nomination. Grima needs a simple majority to be elected.

Though Grima will be new to the position of executive vice president if he is appointed, he is certainly not new to ASI. Within the last two years, he was secretary of State Affairs and served as a liaison between ASI and the California State Student Association.

"My experience qualifies me for the position along with my commitment to advocate the students' best interest," Grima said after the meeting.

After ASI board members reflected on both unfinished and new business, Andrade gave Grima the chance to speak on behalf of his nomination in office.

"I just want to thank all of you guys, Jesus and the board, for being here and giving me the opportunity," Grima said. "I think ASI is a great vehicle to promote student interest, and I'm just glad that I can be a part of it."

Grima said his goal was to go along with what ASI has already done in its strategic planning sessions and retreats. Grima said he is going to focus his energy in going in the same direction as ASI.

"I am interested in the executive vice president position because I have passion and desire to be an effective advocate for the students of our campus," he said.

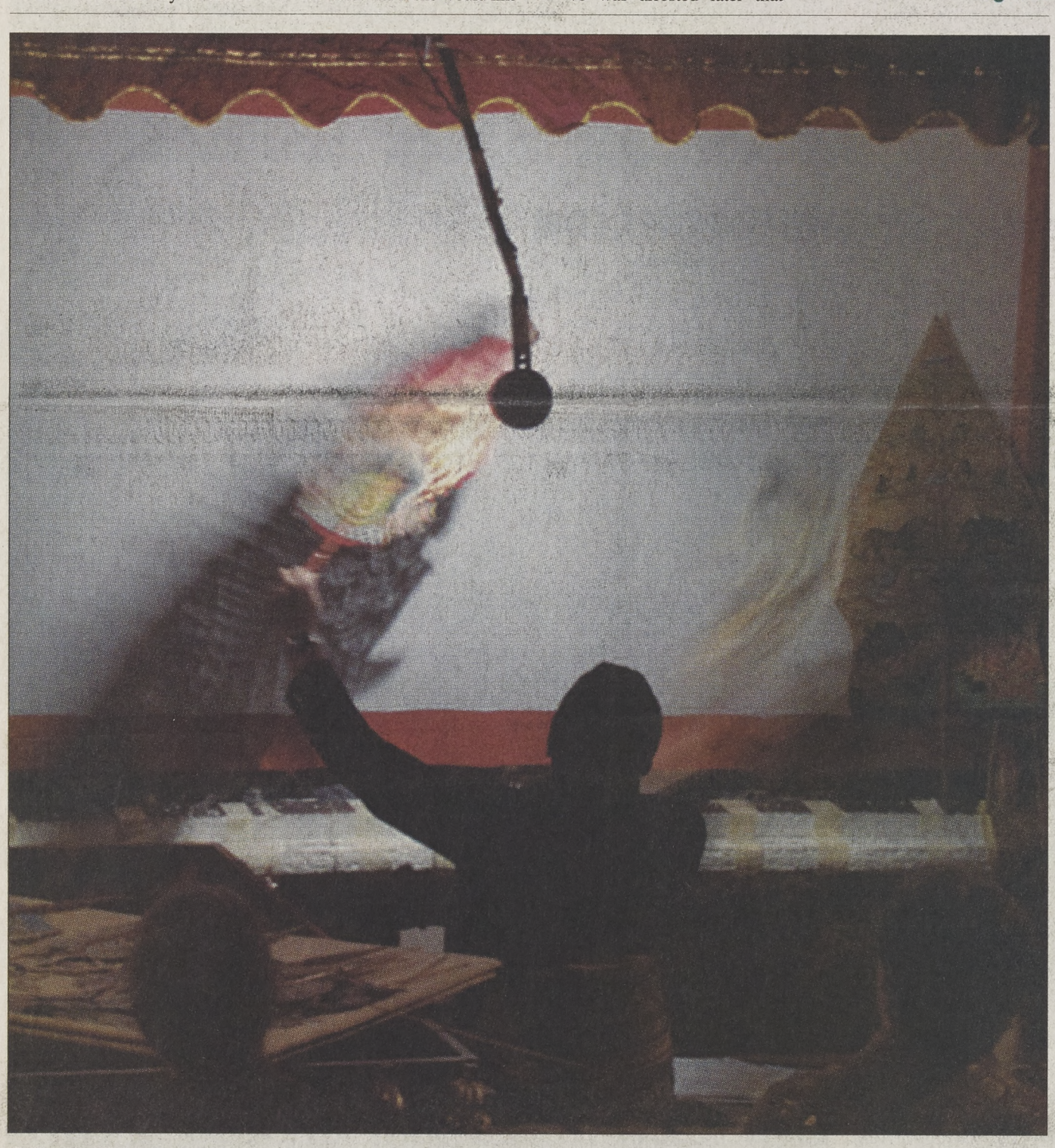
Andrade devoted a lot of his time in the quest for a new executive vice president by conducting a number of interviews. Although it is not necessary, Andrade said he did get some input from other ASI members.

Grima said that he has had a strong working relationship with the board. "I respect and commend their hard work so far this year and I am looking forward to accomplishing goals that will be beneficial for all students."

Andrade said he didn't find any objections from anyone at the working board meeting on Feb. 21 about his selection of Grima.

"The candidates were a really tough choice," Andrade said. "Everyone had EVP (executive vice president) qualities, executive qualities, leadership qualities."

GRIMA: Page A3



FAST SHADOW

A Javanese shadow play "The Rebellion of Anggada" was performed on Saturday in the Music Recital Hall. Originating in India, these stories are common in Southeast Asia. This tale is often performed in episodes.

T.C. CLARK/STATE HORNET

Study: Completion rates low at colleges

Sac State professors compiled data from community colleges

DANIELLE SAZIO
State Hornet

Completion rates are low among community college students seeking a degree, certificate or transfer to a four-year college, according to a new study from Sacramento State.

Nancy Shulock, executive director of the Institute for Higher Education Leadership, and Policy and Research Program Specialist Colleen Moore conducted the study "Rules of the Game."

Their study shows that one in four "degree-seekers" who start at a California community college "earn a certificate or degree, transferred to a four-year university or achieved some combination of those outcomes within six years of enrolling."

But many of the students who transfer to a four-year college end up with no degree, the study found. An associate's degree is not required to transfer.

"Dr. Shulock and I were motivated out of concern over recent studies indicating that California's future social and economic health is threatened by declining educational attainment of state residents," Moore said.

Another key factor in low completion rates is the policies made to make enrolling easier, actually have "impeded" students' degree completion. The study finds a breakdown of five policies: enrollment-based funding, regulation of expenditures, restrictions on hiring, student fees and financial aid, and institutional role in guiding student course-taking.

Sac State graduate student Maree Cambra, a social science major, said she had no direction when she attended community college.

And advising is a key to success, according to the study.

"It was hard to see counselors at American River. I saw a counselor once and tried to remember everything they said and did everything myself after that. When I went back there to get my AA certificate, they were amazed I had done it all myself," Cambra said.

Kinesiology major Peter Sobrero said he lost units after he transferred to Sac State because of advising.

"I'm graduating in May with 180 units because some of the classes I took at community colleges didn't transfer over," he said.

The study states: "The combined impact of the actions of the colleges and the choices of students is low completion. Students may not know what choices are best and our policies

STUDY: Page A6

Speech center helps others find their voice

ASHLEY EVANS
State Hornet

Nearly 57 years after its initial introduction, Sacramento State's Maryjane Rees Language, Speech and Hearing Center continues to help in the growth, acceptance and progression of students with speech impediments and hearing disorders.

Clinic Coordinator Lynda Oldenburg, who has worked at the center for nearly nine years, said that the program was designed as a way to provide students with everything from hearing tests and hearing aids to speech assessments and treatment for all communication disorders.

She went on to say that while the center is predominantly geared toward Sacramento State students, it also serves the entire Sacramento community, and other outlying communities.

"Our students work with Sacramento State students, staff members, professors, adults, the elderly, teens and children," Oldenburg said. "The ages of our clients range from small children of about two to six year-old, to older men and women who may have experienced a stroke or some similar problem."

Oldenburg said that while there aren't specific records to help in determining how many students the center has served over the last 56 years, she does know that the center has an average of about 200 clients per semester. She went on to say that the center's services are offered to Sac State students free of charge.

"Students (and others) coming to our center from other universities (and areas) pay a relatively small fee for their treatment and assessments," Oldenburg said.

Oldenburg said that most of the center's clients join the program because they want to modify their accent, to improve a hoarse or raspy voice, or because they stutter. The center does, however, occasionally have clients who have suffered a stroke or need help with pronunciation or reading problems, she said.

Graduate speech and language pathology major Hitasha Mitera is currently involved in the program and participates in faculty-supervised, digitally

SPEECH: Page A5

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University Police Log

Sunday Feb. 18, 2007

Trespassing – ARBORETUM – Officers arrested a man in violation of a "refusal to leave campus" issued on Feb. 12. He was booked into the Sacramento County Jail.

Loose or dangerous animal – PARKING LOT 6 – Officers told a man to put his three dogs on a leash.

Incomplete 911 call – LIBRARY – Sacramento Police Department called to say they had received three or four "hang up calls" from a pay phone on the third floor of the Library. University Police checked the area and it was OK.

Monday Feb. 19, 2007

Larceny theft – ALPINE HALL – A man's mountain bike was stolen between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Burglary – PARKING LOT – Several items were stolen from a man's vehicle between Feb. 18 and Feb. 19 at 11 a.m.

ASI NOTEBOOK

ASI finds funding to open study lounge

JAQUELINE TUALLA
State Hornet

The 24-hour study lounge at the Academic Information Resource Center will finally launch Sunday.

Associated Students Inc. agreed to implement up to $2,000 of funding toward advertising the center.

The study lounge, which will be known as the Hornet Lounge, will be open every Sunday through Thursday throughout the semester, with the exception of being open 24 hours, seven days a week, during the period of finals.

Funded by both ASI and University Computing Communications and Media Services, the Hornet Lounge will have security available on site.

ASI President Jesus Andrade looks upon the new study lounge similar to the way he views culture.

"Just like culture, we have to build the study lounge. We have to promote the facilities," Andrade said.

The Hornet Lounge will be a great place for students to hang out and stay as long as they want to, Andrade said. He further said the lounge will be a convenient study area with an atmosphere where everyone can study, instead of being forced to go home when the AIRC building closes.

"People will have to adjust to (the Hornet Lounge)…I have no idea how many people will go to the new lounge, but so far the responses have been good. It is something new…something fresh that I think students will enjoy," Andrade said.


Andrade

ASI is looking to provide coffee at the Hornet Lounge in the near future.

AFRICA funding denied

ASI decided not to provide funding for Africans for Re-Education, Innovation, Consciousness, and Achievement after a long discussion that aroused strong emotions Wednesday. AFRICA is an organization made up of students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Its purpose has been to provide a forum of activities and events to develop the critical thinking and acting skills of the campus and community to engage in positive struggle for the forward advancement of African Americans, according to the association's flier. It was stated that AFRICA applied for Dollars for Organizations and Clubs grant where it would receive $1,500 from ASI.

As a participant, ASI would receive a half-page advertisement in the conference booklet, a listing as an Education/Government Level Conference Sponsor, and Education/Government Sponsor "Award of Recognition."

Andrade told the AFRICA representative to go through with the DOC grant, and that ASI will sponsor the organization in this manner.

Vice President of University Affairs Chris Ramos suggested that AFRICA go through other ways of getting money from ASI, as other clubs do, rather than receiving both $1,500 and $350 from ASI.

"If (AFRICA) gets the DOC grant, we're giving them extra money; $1,500 and $350," Board Associate Rita Tyk said.

Every student club on campus is eligible for $1,500 through DOC funding. Since AFRICA will be eligible, Andrade said it would not be fair to other clubs if ASI approved additional funding for AFRICA.

Sociology professor proposes legislation modifications

Sac State sociology professor Kevin Wehr said he felt uneasy about ASI's legislation regarding the California Faculty Association and the California State University system at a working board meeting.

"Sacramento State asks the chancellor to act to avert a faculty strike by going back to a negotiating table because this is in the best interest of students," Wehr said.

Wehr has taught at Sac State for the last four years. He proposed ASI to change the language in the legislation, adding that the current language is "unhelpful."

A strong believer in the strikes having a positive outcome on students in the long term, Wehr stated that a happy faculty makes for happy students. Without bargaining in good faith for a fair contract, he added, morale is low and students will be affected.

To withhold his labor is the only thing that the chancellor seems to listen to, he said. Wehr does not want the students to suffer, but if push comes to shove, he claims he will be left with no other option but to strike.

Wehr went on to say that the legislation should address the unmet needs of the CSU system and to reprioritize academics over executive salaries.

ASI board members did not make a decision as to whether they will modify the legislation or not.

Jacqueline Tualla can be reached at news@statehornet.com

AT STATEHORNET.COM

ONLINE NOW

A lecture giving tips on how to help friends who suffer with eating disorders.

COMING UP

Thursday: A review of self-defense, safety presented by the Women's Resource Center
Thursday: Winona LeDuke talks about the environment from a native perspective

CORRECTIONS

The State Hornet ensures accuracy and corrects mistakes.

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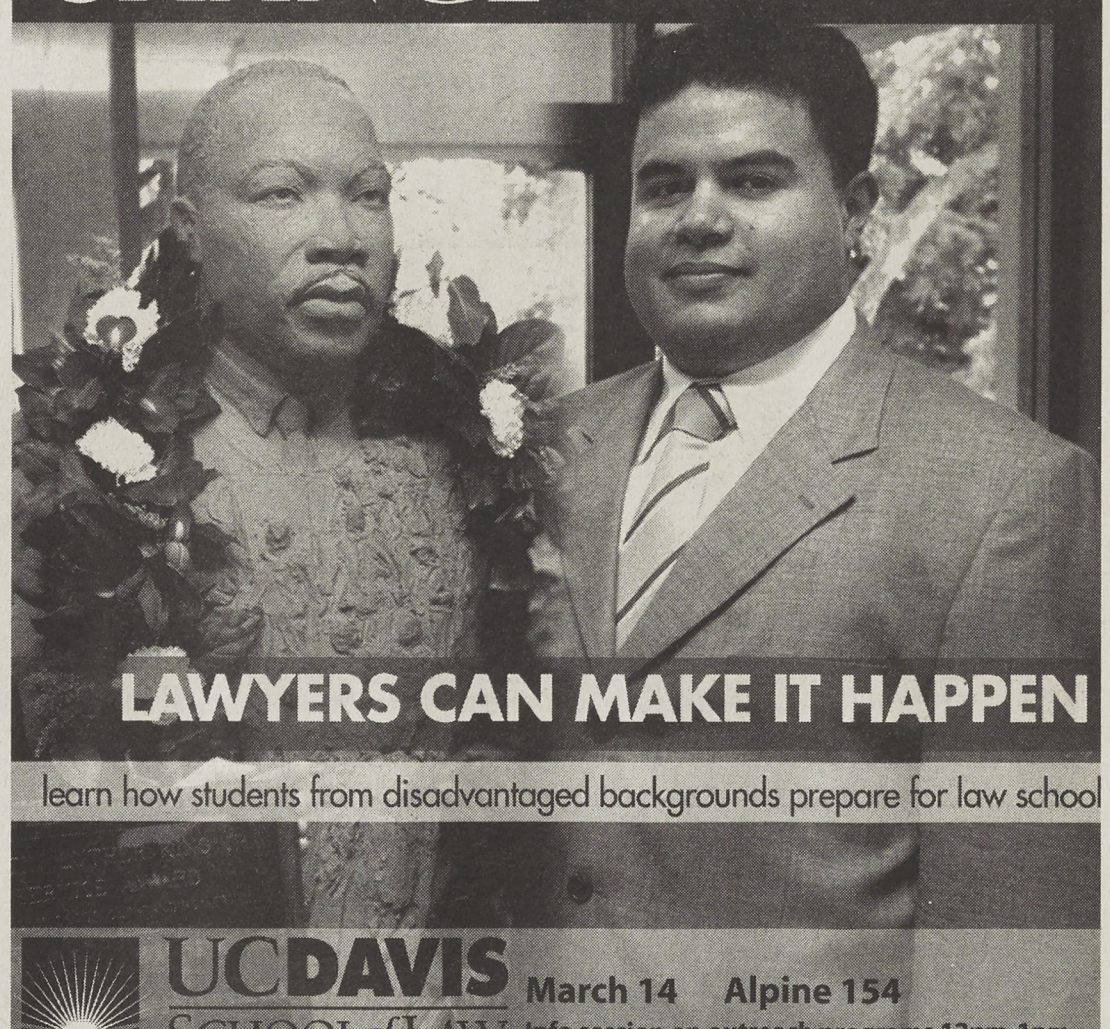
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"I am just excited to be working with a motivated team of students that plays such a vital role in our campus community. I do not take this responsibility lightly."
Curtis Grima,
nominee for ASI executive vice president

GRIMA: He ran for ASI president in spring '06

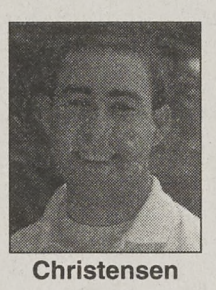
Continued from A1

Ryan Christensen, director of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies ran against Grima and said he welcomes him back to ASI.

"He's always on top of stuff, really dedicated to the students," he said. "I was thrilled; really happy about Jesus' pick."

Christensen said he thought another candidate would put ASI at a disadvantage because Grima already has experience.

"Everyone is pretty much happy with it. I would actually be shocked if the board does not appoint him," Christensen said.


Christensen

Grima ran for ASI president in spring 2006. During the spring elections, Grima said he would focus on student issues such as striving to make Parking Structure III for students only.

"I am just excited to be working with a motivated team of students that plays such a vital role in our campus community. I do not take this responsibility lightly, and I will strive to go above and beyond the basic duties to fully serve the students," Grima said.

"Student parking permits were raised to $108 a semester to fund Parking Structure III," Grima said. "No one else's fees were increased to help fund this project. If students paid for it, it should be ours."

Jacqueline Tualla can be reached at news@statehornet.com

ASSAULT: Police records show multiple arrests

Continued from A1

tion, or sexual abuse, is guilty of sexual battery."

Since he was charged with forcible fondling, a misdemeanor, Vo was allowed to come back to campus after seven days, according to California PC 626.6.

The penal code states if a person interrupts the peaceful atmosphere of a college campus, an officer can ask the person to leave for seven days, according to the California Legislature's website.

Vo was arrested three times – on Feb. 12, Feb. 14 and Feb. 18 – for interrupting the peace, said Sgt. Kelly Clark of Campus Police. The seven days of banishment renewed each time he came onto campus.

Michaelson said Vo had not been seen in the Library since Feb. 18. He is allowed to come back to campus Monday.

Since Sac State is a public location, there is no campus rule to keep homeless people from coming or living on campus, said Frank Whitlatch, associate vice president of Public Affairs.

Vo has lived at Sac State for at least 10 years, Michaelson said.

"Normally, our homeless patrons are our best patrons," he said. "We have had no problems (with them) until this incident."

"However, our main objective is to protect all of the students," Michaelson said.

Michaelson said Vo will be monitored more closely at least in the Library, since he has been known to "hang out" on the fourth floor of the building.

The incident is still under investigation from the District Attorney's office, said Lt. Dan Davis of the campus police.

Clark said the District Attorney's office will determine if Vo will go to trial for sexually assaulting the student.

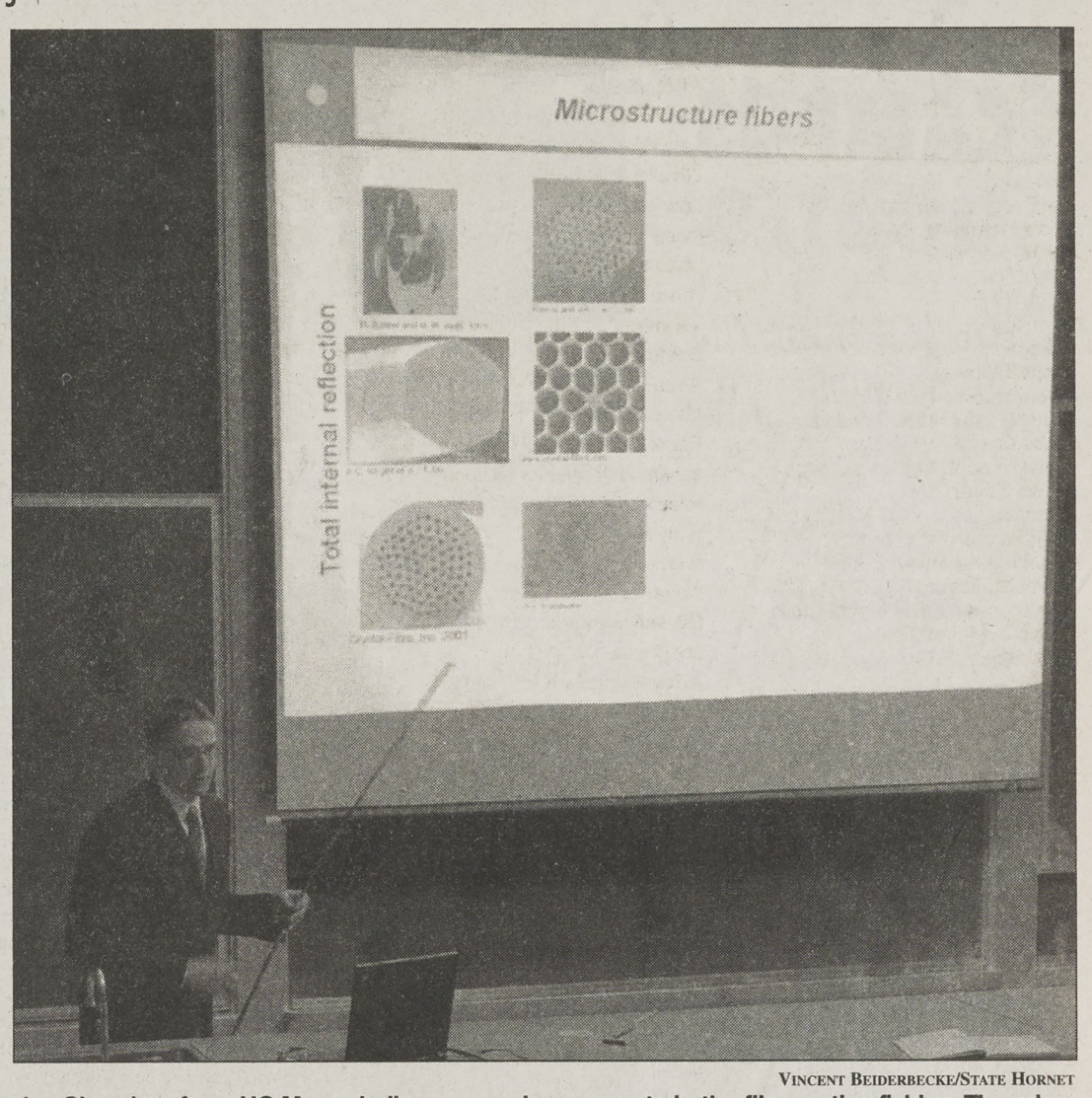
The Feb. 10 incident is the first time a homeless person has assaulted any student on campus, said Jessica Heskin, the educator at the Women's Resource Center. Heskin counseled the victim after the incident.

Heskin said very few sexual assault victims come forward. Only 10 percent do, according to national studies and Heskin. Embarrassment, the fear of not being believed and the social aspect from peers keep victims from reporting incidents.

According to the 2006 Cleary Report, there have been four reported cases of sexual assaults at Sac State since 2003.

Clark said just because a person is homeless, it doesn't mean the person is a criminal. He does suggest that if people see a problem on campus they should report it to the police. Campus Police can be reached at (916) 278-6851.

Jamie Gonzales can be reached at news@statehornet.com



VINCENT BEIDERBECKE/STATE HORNET
Jay Sharping, from UC Merced, discusses advancements in the fiber optics field on Thursday.

Lecture series features talk of fiber-based technologies

JORDAN GUINN
State Hornet

Exciting advancements in the field of fiber-based devices were discussed with energy and humor by Jay Sharping, a UC Merced professor, during his presentation Thursday, "Pushing the limits of glass."

The presentation surveyed the recent developments in the field of fiber optics, a field that has grown in size and capabilities over the past few decades.

"We have the ability to manipulate light now better than we have ever had before," Sharping said.

The presentation included a history and comparison of microstructure fibers, the base of fiber optics. Sharping also analyzed the variances of several types of fiber optics, as well as the most common methods of constructing fiber-based devices.

Observers of the presentation asked questions and laughed regularly as Sharping spoke with enthusiasm about lasers, fiber optics and chip scales.

"What advancements remain ahead for fiber optics are applications beyond telecommunications, as well as continuous improvements in the field of physics and laboratory sciences," Sharping said.

Sharping's seminar, hosted by the astronomy and physics department, is part of the "Physics Colloquium Series," a series of lectures at Sacramento State held on a variety of topics relating to science.

Sharping is an assistant professor of natural sciences at Merced. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2003.

Merced was the first research center constructed for the UC system in the 21st Century. Sharping is one of six physics faculty members for Merced.

Upcoming lectures include Lee Sawyer, a Louisiana Tech professor on March 1, and Chris McKay of the NASA Ames research center on April 5. The lectures are free and are held at 4 p.m. every Thursday in Mendocino 1015.

Jordan Guinn can be reached at news@statehornet.com

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(Election Dates)
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(Voting Locations)
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(Club Ballot Information)
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CAMPUS QUOTES

"Do you think the new signage on campus is helpful?"

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOSH STAAB

NEXT WEEK

News: The new signs that have popped up all over campus cost Sacramento State an average of between $1,800 and $2,500. We take a closer look at some hurdles and advantages to the new signage on campus.



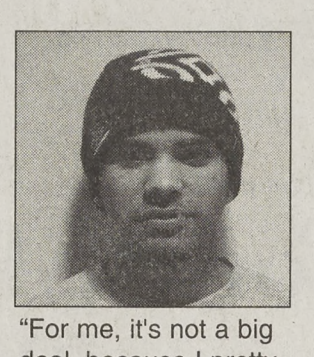
"Those are helpful, because I'm new here this semester. I missed orientation, so I had to figure out this campus on my own."

Kate Murray
Sophomore
Philosophy



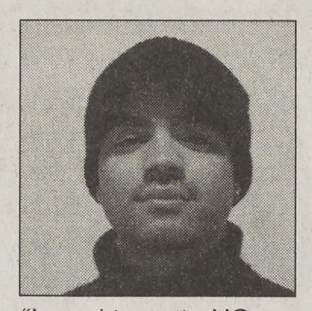
"They're not informative enough into what direction they go. Sometimes they're helpful, sometimes they're not helpful at all. If they put more maps out there that would be more helpful."

Jen Fetter
Junior
Liberal Studies



"For me, it's not a big deal, because I pretty much know where everything is. I don't really look where I go anymore. I look at the buildings. They should put up maps of the campus with things like 'you are here.'"

Mike Dessaso
Sophomore
Mechanical Engineering



"I used to go to UC Davis, and they would have maps at every major intersection. When I first transferred over here it was confusing, but after a while if you don't know where you're going, there's no hope for you!"

Eddy Dessaso
Junior
Graphic Design



"I don't even look because I know where all the buildings are. If you don't know where to go it does help to have something there to tell you where to go."

Nicole Glover
Junior
Liberal Studies





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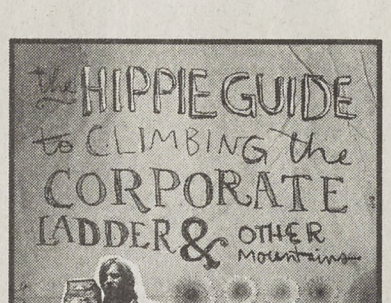
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MEET THE AUTHOR



SKIP YOWELL

CO-FOUNDER OF JANSPORT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

12-1:30pm

Speaking and signing his book at the Lobby Suite in the University Union

Skip Yowell co-founded JanSport in 1967 while in search of the perfect hiking pack (now the number one selling day pack in the world). He is also credited with creating the first dome tent, waist-suspension flexible frame pack, travel pack, and the panel-load daypack.

Today Skip Yowell holds the title, Vice President of Global Public Relations at JanSport and consults with JanSport International businesses in Europe, Asia and South America.

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SPEECH: Students work at center

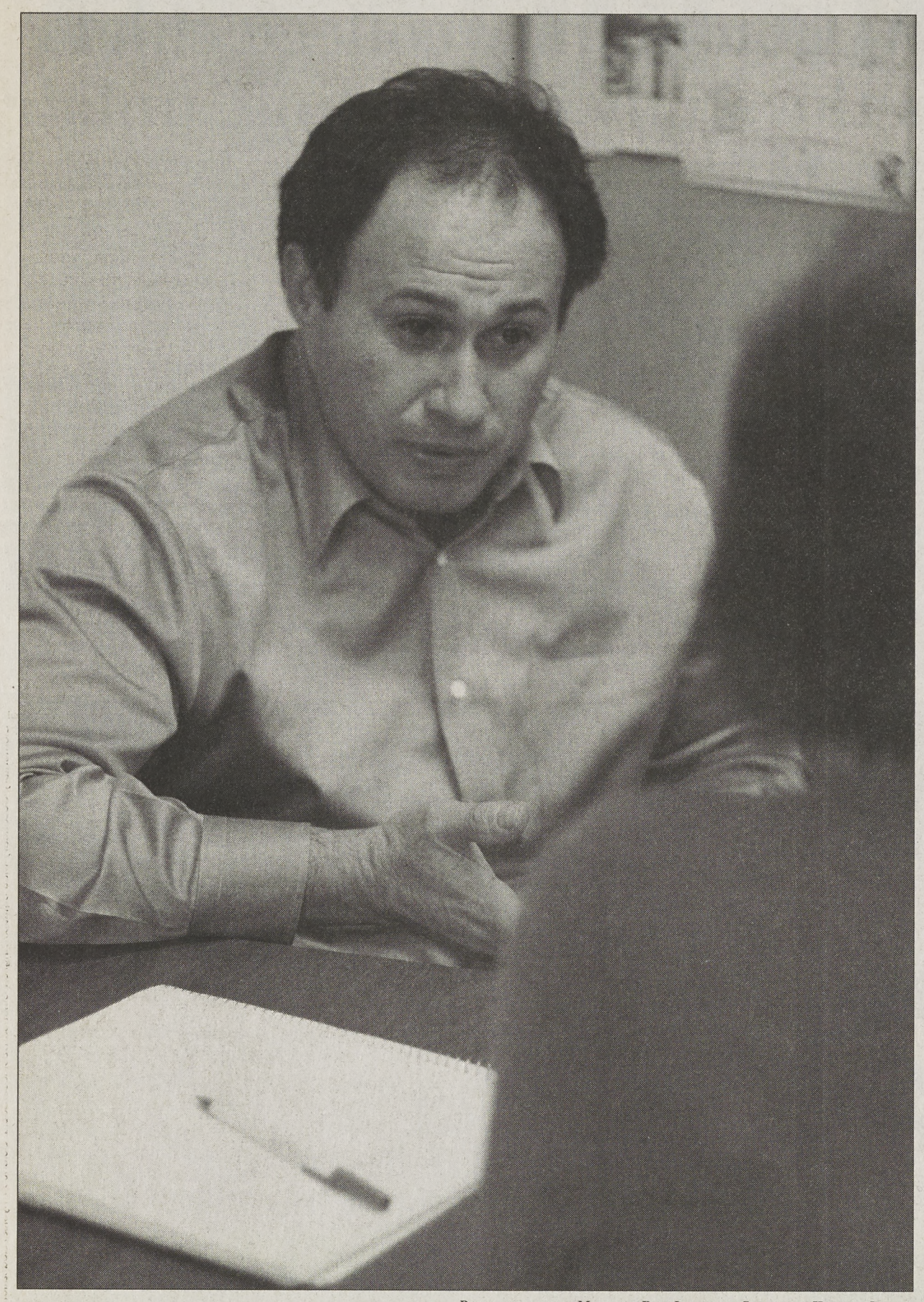


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYJANE REES LANGUAGE, SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER

Senior electrical engineering major Edgar Polanco, left, has worked exclusively with Maryjane Rees Language, Speech and Hearing Center Clinic Coordinator Linda Oldenburg for three semesters in order to reduce or modify his accent.

Continued from A1

recorded and videotaped clinical trials with both young children and the elderly.

"Many clients come in twice a week for a (one-on-one) one hour therapy session," Mitera said. "Most of our clients are more than grateful for our services."

Senior electrical engineering major Edgar Polanco has worked exclusively with Oldenburg for three semesters in order to reduce or modify his accent, and said that his speech has improved tremendously.

"(Oldenburg) has excellent ears," Polanco said. "She is very critical and gives excellent comments. She is also very professional and sweet…she is very devoted to my progress. I am thankful for her hard work and her techniques."

Mitera went on to say that along with an increase in self-confidence and overall communication skills, clients could also expect acceptance and compassion from the student helpers and staff and faculty members.

"We want people to know that a person with a speech impediment is not alone and that they can seek treatment," Mitera said.

Jim Miller, who joined the center three semesters ago after suffering a stroke, said that he had to give up a lot of things after his stroke and that the help of student from center has helped him immensely.

Miller joked that he had to give up a number of things after his stroke, including smoking, drinking, cussing and hanging out with wild women.

"(Since my stroke), the center has been good," Miller said. "I've been given a lot of help and have learned a lot. I've also taught (those that work at the center) a lot."

Megan Kent, who is a graduate speech and language pathology major, said that the young children and patients that she works with on a weekly basis bring her an abundance of joy.

"Kids are both fun and funny to work with," Kent said. "One time when I was working with one of my 3-year-old clients, we're looking at a picture of a walrus and I said, 'whoa, what great big teeth he has, and he said, 'Megan, they're not teeth, they're tusks.' He said it like I was so wrong!"

"Kids are both fun and funny to work with. One time when I was working with one of my 3-year-old clients, we're looking at a picture of a walrus, and I said, 'whoa, what great big teeth he has' and he said 'Megan, they're not teeth, they're tusks.' He said it like I was so wrong!"

Megan Kent,
Sac State
graduate student

Kent and Mitera, who both hope to either open their own practices or work at a hospital or school after graduation, said that it was the overall reputations of the center that drew that to Sac State after getting their bachelor's degrees.

"I chose Sac State because I graduated from the University of Connecticut in May of 2005 and took 6 months off," Kent said. "When I started looking into grad programs, I knew I wanted to go out west, specifically to California...Sac State offered spring admission and the No. 2 ranked speech program in California."

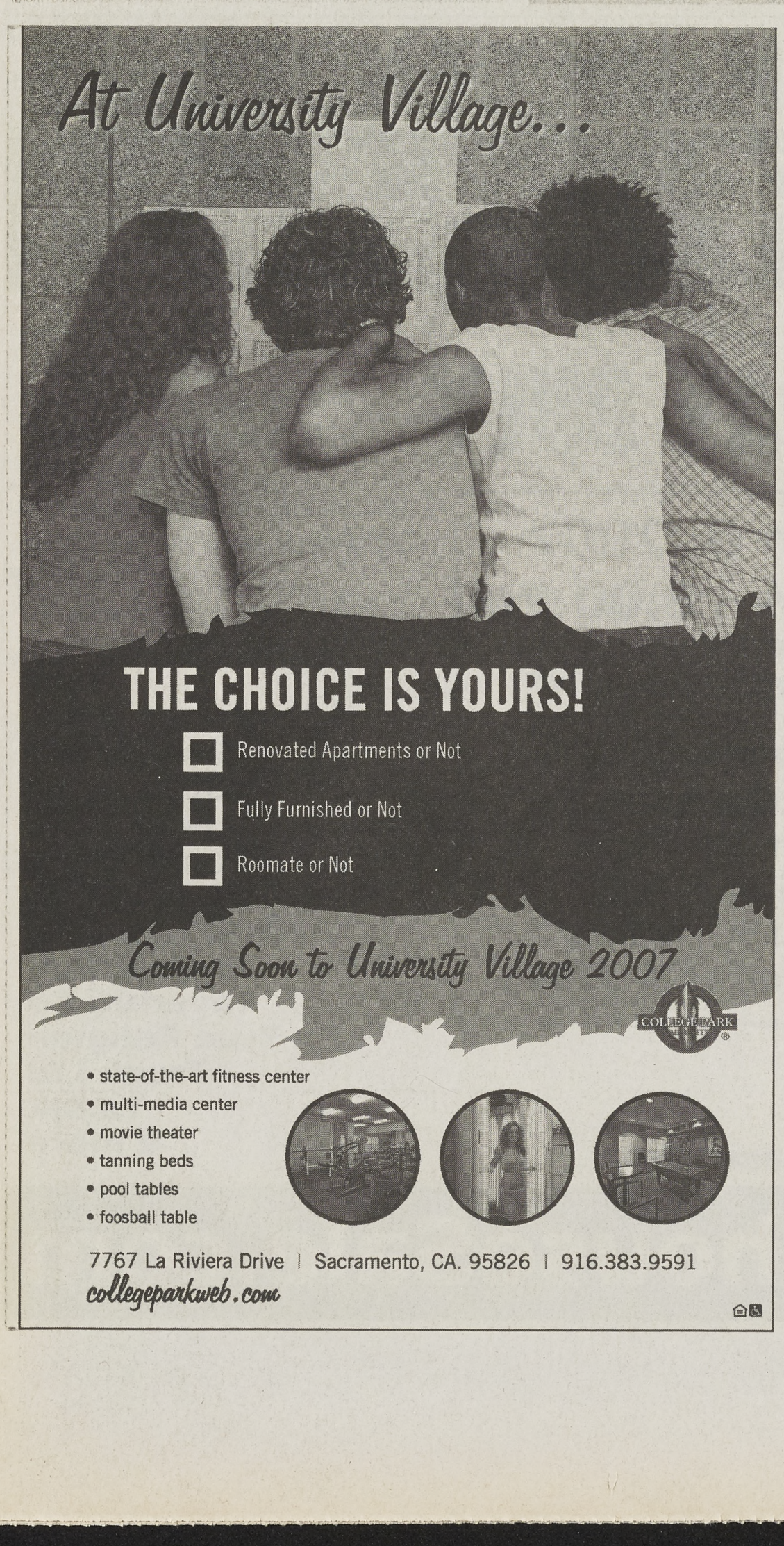
"I'm from Toronto, Canada originally, and I wanted to move to California," Mitera said. "I did some research to find out which schools had a good program (and I discovered that) Sac State had one of the best programs for speech and language pathology in the state of California."

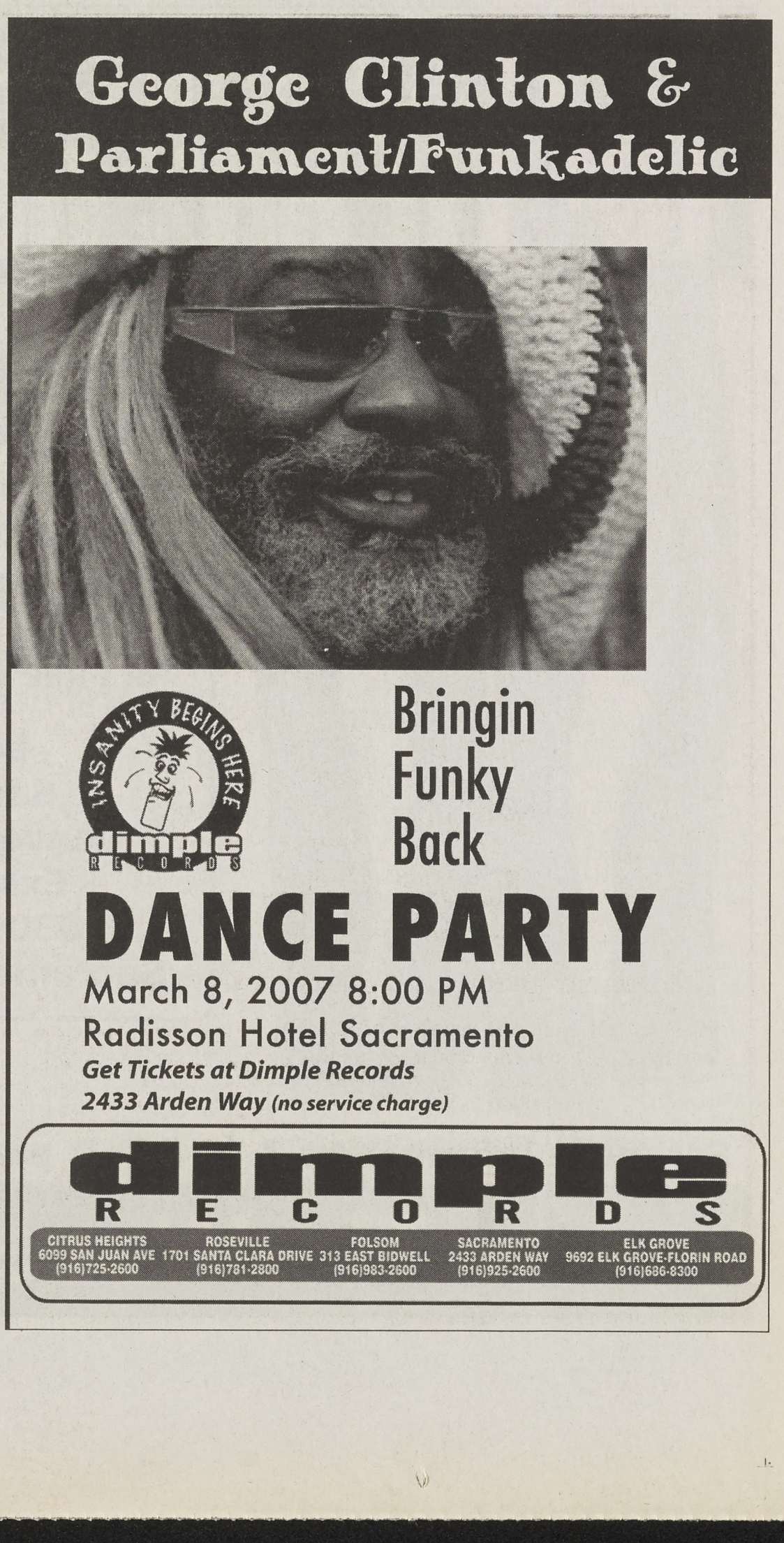
All three women agree that it is the dedication of the program's faculty members and students along with their clients' willingness to learn that make the center such a worthwhile and inspiring experience.

"The professors and staff are the backbone of our program," Mitera said. "As a student I cannot begin to describe how professional, supportive and extremely helpful they are. Their commitment to helping us learn is exhibited by their open door policy…their experiences enrich our learning and their research propels our profession forward."

Oldenburg said that the students that are involved in speech pathology and audiology are bright, articulate and extremely hard working.

Ashley Evans can be reached at news@statehornet.com





Webcast presentation focuses on new data gathering techniques

JORDAN GUINN
State Hornet

Students and faculty intrigued by data analysis were in attendance at the Mountain Room of the University Union to see Katherine Klein of the University of Pennsylvania, the keynote speaker of a webcast that aired Friday.

The webcast, titled "Issues with Group Measurement," focused on new methods of collecting and analyzing data.

The Office of Contract Administration and the Office of Research Administration, in partnership with the Center for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis (CARMA) joined the CARMA Consortium Webcast Program. CARMA is a nonprofit branch of the School of Business at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Developing opportunities to strengthen faculty research capacities and creating an environment that is efficient and cost-effective are among the stated goals of the offices.

The series enables faculty and students to have access to supplemental training as well as the latest methodological research in various fields. David Earwicker, assistant vice president of the Office of Contract Administration and the Office of Research Administration, commends CARMA's research methods and capabilities.

"We know that CARMA has world-class researchers, we just want to see how the content is delivered," Earwicker said.

Earwicker said that the webcast is the first for Sac State and that the administration wants to make sure that the program is useful before making a commitment to CARMA.

Sonya Lovine coordinated the event and said that the users of upcoming webcasts will be able to interact with the speakers via e-mail.

Students as well as faculty from various programs attended the webcast.

Kannon Yamada is a graduate student of international affairs e.

"I found it very informative," Yamada said. "Some of the research methodologies that I learned could help my thesis writing efforts substantially."

Others were not as impressed with the content.

Warren Smith, professor in the electrical and electronic engineering department, said the presentation wasn't exactly what he expected. "The ideas presented could be helpful in the medical field, but the issues raised today don't directly apply to what I am trying to do."

Klein's presentation employed several classes of sorting information as well as an overview of data analysis.

"I think it will be helpful in the long run," psychology major Jason Schaefer said.

The job of the Office of Research Administration is to provide information on funding opportunities as well as offering advice on project and budget development.

The Office of Contract Administration mediates when government agencies or private sector organizations want to contract with faculty members or student assistance. Contract Administration is responsible for Student Employment Services, a subdivision that works with private businesses and state agencies to provide job opportunities for students.

Currently more than 115 universities are members of CARMA's webcast series. CARMA specializes in objective data analysis and have been contracted to analyze data by countless corporations, governmental agencies and private investors.

Companies and government agencies use CARMA's research to make informed decisions about their respective operations.

Former student Michelle McGibbons said she enjoyed the webcast and plans on attending the future broadcasts.

"It's also a great resource, and since it's also free it's perfect," she said.

The next webcast will air on March 23. For more information call Sonya Lovine at 278-3668.

Jordan Guinn can be reached at news@statehornet.com

STUDY: Community college chief finds the study misleading, unfair

Continued from A1

are not helping them make the best choices."

"I had to take an extra semester here because the classes I took at (ARC) for my criminal justice major didn't transfer over to Sac State," Alex Felix said.

In a study, the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy gave some ideas as to how to raise the completion rates of students.

"Our report suggests some broad areas where policy change is needed to give colleges more incentive to help students complete their programs," Moore said.

Instead of having enrollment-based funds, they recommend changing it so the schools get funding for completions and enrollment, with extra funding for completions by disadvantaged and under-prepared students.

"The requirement that 50 percent of each college's budget be spent on direct classroom instruction is perhaps the biggest regulatory obstacle to degree completion, " according to the study. To change this, they want to give colleges flexibility to use their funds to produce desired outcomes.

Moore and Shulock also recommend giving colleges flexibility to hire faculty that will best help students to complete academic programs, particularly with advising.

"I had a good advisor at Sac State. He kept me on track and told me what classes I needed…I wasn't afraid to go in. I knew he wouldn't judge me. He'd just help me get the classes I needed," Cambra said.

The Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy also suggests allowing colleges to benefit from fee revenue, removing restrictions on campus-based fees and developing an affordability policy based on the total cost of college attendance.

Lastly, they recommend revising assessment and placement policies to help students succeed and make sure colleges provide "clear guidance" for students to progress quickly toward completing their selected programs.

"We certainly hope the report will initiate discussion among California's policy makers and educational leaders in all segments of higher education about state policy solutions that focus on changing the rules of the game in ways that will better support student success and completion in the community colleges," Moore said.

In a written response to this study, California State Chancellor for Community Colleges Mark Drummond wrote that the report badly underreports the success of the community college student.

"It further fails to acknowledge the work underway by the California Community College Board of Governors, faculty and staff across the system on increasing student success," Drummond wrote.

Drummond said that the students who attended community college on a part-time basis succeeded in being prepared by the California Community Colleges and that more 55 percent of all CSU graduates and over 28 percent of all University of California graduates were at one point California community college students

Drummond said that plans are being made by the California Community College Board of Governors to improve student success, which will include "strong linkage between grades 8-12 standards improving tests and college placement standard, improving communication between college and K-12 instructors," and providing enough funds and guidance to the high school and college students to help them achieve their goals.

Danielle Sazio can be reached at news@statehornet.com

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STATE HORNET EDITORIAL

Continue Creative Student Outreach

In 2005-06, the reported number of students enrolled at Sacramento State was 28,529. While the university seems to be in a continuous state of construction and expansion, the university faces a difficult battle getting students to fill the seats. There are few better examples than within the black student population, totaling among the lowest percentage of students enrolled at Sac State.

The percent of black undergraduates has fluctuated between 5 percent and 8 percent since 1973, while the enrollment of Asians has shown a steady increase from 5 percent to 10 percent. Hispanics have seen the biggest jump, going from about 4 percent to 16 percent.

The California State University system is trying to improve the numbers by approaching black students in an innovative way: prayer.

In an effort to increase the number of black students attending college, the CSU system teamed up with 31 Northern and Southern California churches to help inform students about their future as a college student.

Representatives from various CSUs spoke to congregations about the importance of attending college.

Last year's Super Sunday showed a significant 12 percent increase in black student applications, Chancellor Charles B. Reed said in a press release.

Super Sunday returned for another round, drawing in a number of campus presidents, including President Alexander Gonzalez who spoke on Feb. 18 at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church.

Just when enrollment at Sac State started running into a few bumpy roads, it seems as though the CSU system has shined a light of hope.

"We look at areas where there is African-American leadership, African-American families and motivated young students," said Kim Huggett, director of public relations. "We found that faith is a big part in being able to reach these young students."

Throughout the East Bay, enrollment in the CSU was critical in our outreach effort and has long been a target, Huggett said.

Reed spoke about the importance of parent involvement and urged students to make sure they take the courses required for admissions to the CSU and the University of California systems.

Sac State was one of the participating universities when Super Sunday first began. There are only so many times a student, faculty or staff member can stand hearing the words "Destination 2010." It is nice to know that Sac State is finding more creative and innovative ways to boost its enrollment numbers.

Recognizing that the system needs to improve its outreach to blacks is half the battle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Prepare your Magic Markers for the masquerade party

State Hornet Needs to Show Some Class

The cartoon of Athletics Director Dr. Terry Wanless is totally inappropriate and shows no class what-so-ever. Dr. Wanless and every other member of the athletics department give countless hours of their time not only to athletics, but the university as well, and this is how we show our thanks? There has been a lot of talk the past few weeks about inappropriate photos getting people into trouble, so far this is the most inappropriate one that I have seen. The State Hornet can hide behind its first amendment right to freedom of press, but if I worked for the State Hornet I would be embarrassed to see "artwork" like this. It is amazing to me how the State Hornet, our "official student-run newspaper," feels that it is appropriate to publish inappropriate cartoons such as this. According to your web site the focus of the State Hornet is to "Inform students, faculty, staff and the community of events, issues and policies pertinent to their lives. Nowhere in there does it say, "Oh, and by the way, we will probably print some cartoons that are extremely distasteful and disrespectful." It is obvious to me that the State Hornet isn't attempting to give us students a decent newspaper. Why should they? It's not like they have to sell anything to us. Our fees pay for the paper whether we like it or not. I am just glad I will be graduating soon and my fees will no longer be going to pay for such a horrendous newspaper.

-Rebecca Duncan

Dear Editor,

I think that all of the articles about the CFA strike have been informative and good information for the students. However, I feel that the students' interests need to be addressed. What is the potential impact for students? It seems that everyone keeps saying that graduation will not be affected and things will work out. But as a student I feel that it is very important to let students know what may happen if there is a strike. Will classes be canceled? Will we get refunds? There are just so many questions that are going unanswered.

Tyler

CSU, pay the teachers; professors, teach class



ROSA PASTRAN

If teachers go on strike, we're screwed. Not exactly, but we pretty much are. Think about it. If things blew up into something huge, classes could be halted, canceled or pushed back and we would be forced to make them up. And I'm not doing that.

Students are not getting a direct answer when it comes to the negotiations between teachers and the administration. All we're getting is the run around and it's getting frustrating. We're lost in the midst of all this drama going on. The only thing we hear is what teachers tell us and what the executives tell us. We get both sides of the story, but they're both so completely off from one another that it's difficult to know what is really the truth.

We're dealing with rumors and gossip from the teacher's union, the university and our teachers. Have they forgotten that our education rests in their hands? A decision on the teachers' pay needs to made and quickly.

We hear about it all day in our classes from every teacher, and it gets tiring. We know the teachers want more money. We know the university is being difficult and not offering acceptable raises and, yes, we know President Alexander Gonzalez just got some money in his pocket. But seriously, it's not a topic that makes my top 10 things to talk about on a daily basis.

"If school gets pushed back, or if the teachers strike, I'm not sure what will happen to the students," said communication major Kat Smith. "The teachers need their raise, we need our education and the higher-up individuals need to get to work on satisfying not only the teachers, but us as a university."

Now take a moment and realize what could happen. If all 23 California State University campuses decided to strike, what's going to happen to us? They say it will be a rolling strike and the maximum number of classes we'll miss is only a few, but what if the teachers get even more pissed and they insult them with an even lower offer? I can only imagine how many sharp number, blue books and scantrons would be destroyed in the process.

The students are only getting the butt of this dilemma, and we're getting impacted with all the problems and not the solutions. We have to hear the problems. We have to listen to teachers gripe. We have to receive junk e-mail from the Gonzalez in our SacLink accounts. When will all of this be over?

If I had it my way, I'd just pay the teachers their damn money and cut money from the high and mighty executives. And while I'm at it, I'll lower tuition. Why not? The teachers are screaming for a fair raise. Meanwhile, the executives get an increase in their paychecks. Talk about adding insult to injury.

I can feel the teachers' pain. Classes are tight, pay is bad and they don't get the "thank you" I think they all deserve. The members of California Faculty Association raised their concerns and put what they wanted out on the table. All that's left is to make a decent, not insulting offer. Please make it!

I don't want to hear about this strike anymore. I really don't. Please, for the love of graduating on time, give them money, and lots of it. I personally don't want to spend extra days in school if it's not needed. And I know you guys don't either.

Rosa Pastran can be reached at opinion@statehornet.com

Contrary to popular belief, the Library is still for quiet study



SCOTT ALLEN

Although dreary, uninviting and sterile, the Library provides a quiet sanctuary for students to study and read. I, being a person who cannot read or study with any noise, head to the fourth floor, which is a silent study floor.

Despite a hard-to-miss sign at the entrance of the fourth floor that reads: "The fourth floor is now a silent study area. Please turn off all cell phones" students still talk away, oblivious to those around them trying to study. There are numerous other smaller signs notifying students of the silent nature of the fourth floor, but still, this simple demand goes unheeded at times. What is it about "silent" that people don't get?

The library is the closest and most convenient place to study for me and countless other students. I remember in grade school being berated by our librarian, Mrs. Humbert, for being loud and obnoxious. However, somewhere along the way, I gained an appreciation for the serene atmosphere of a public library. Yet there are some students in our midst who refuse to abide by the simple rule of shutting up.

I have "shushed" people for everything from loudly whispering, casually talking as if they were in a bar and group discussions, to people watching videos on their laptops without any headphones. What the hell? There has to be some other place on campus with an electrical outlet where you can watch "A Night in Paris."

Furthermore, when a room is completely silent, even a whisper seems deafeningly loud. And the chatty Kathys, why do they come to the quietest part of campus to gossip of all the places?

Senior child development major Mary Riordan said, "I go to the library because I do not have any other quiet place to go for studying. The drab and depressing decor is bad enough, but when people start talking on the fourth floor, the silent floor, it is absolutely infuriating. It is unacceptable that half of my time in the library is spent asking people to please be quiet; by the time I'm done shushing people I am so pissed of that I can barely concentrate on my reading."

Don't people get it? They are surrounded by other students not making a sound, but they think it is alright to talk on their phone or chat to their friend? I have run out of patience. What we need is drastic measures to make sure people shut their mouths on the fourth floor.

I have come up with a few ideas with the $37 million that was supposed to go to library upgrades: Make everyone wear remote-controlled electronic neck braces that horribly shock and burn the individual whenever the noise meter on the brace goes above a certain decibel level. Enlist saber-carrying guards who don't brush their teeth and who tap their blades on the table of the noise perpetrator. My third and final desperate measure is to hire armed guards whose tactics include pistol-whipping, knee-capping and caving in heads.

I hope it doesn't have to come to this. So next time you are on the fourth floor, or anywhere in Library for that matter, try to be respectful of those around you and remember that you wouldn't want someone blabbering across from you while you cram for a final.

Scott Allen can be reached at opinion@statehornet.com

WPE: A necessity or a complete waste of time?



BRANDON DARNELL

Yes, the Writing Proficiency Exam is annoying. Yes, showing up early on a Saturday to take a test at a high-school level is only slightly better than waking up with a hangover, if it is better at all. But guess what, you need it. You need so much more.

As an editor for The State Hornet, I read every story in the paper every week and correct them for simple things like grammar, spelling and punctuation, to name a few. I'm sometimes surprised at the amount of errors I catch, and I don't pretend to catch them all.

This is not to say that any writer for the paper is bad. They are actually quite good. Most of them are journalism majors who have a natural writing talent. Yet they still make mistakes. If these journalism majors, who should be some of the best writers in the school, have these issues, then what about the average student?

Like it or not, you need the WPE. Actually, you need to take a few more years of basic English because you could really, really use it.

You don't believe me? Go to statehornet.com and take a peek at some of the comments left on stories. There isn't enough ink in one pen to fix all the problems with just the comments left on our recent women's soccer story.

Now you may be crying that that's not fair because those people weren't trying to write correctly. Fine, whatever. Look at any official memo or letter from most companies in America. It probably sucks too.

My other job is as a server at a restaurant. Our CEO has sent out a few e-mails that were then posted for all employees to see. One was important and had to do with selling alcohol to minors. Since I can't help looking at something with an editor's eye, I quickly saw that there were four incomplete sentences and misspelled words throughout, along with the errors that spell- and grammar-check won't catch.

Even if your major doesn't involve writing, you will probably be called upon to write at some point. You'll need to send an e-mail, write a memo or communicate via writing in some form. It's best if you actually have some semblance of writing skills.

And I'm sure you think you are a good writer. You're probably in denial. If you find the WPE difficult and it's not because you took it hung over, then you need to realize that you need help in some form. I took it without studying or preparing in any way and passed with a 10. I'm not trying to brag, a 10 isn't all that great, but I'm a journalism major – writing is what I do. It probably isn't what you do, but you need to learn it anyway.

If you can't string words into sentences and sentences into paragraphs to argue a point on the WPE and pass it, then you need to work on it. Being an awful writer does not make you stupid, but it sure makes you look the part. I'm lucky. I suck at math, and I won't be needing the higher levels of it as a journalist. If you suck at writing, you are unlucky, because you will need it. Honestly, I would make the WPE quite a bit harder if it were up to me. Maybe I'm biased, but if you speak English, you should be able to write it as well.

Brandon Darnell can be reached at brandondarnell@statehornet.com



ONEIKA RICHARDSON

I'm still not sure about all the schematics. I'm not sure about the grading system. All I know is that I got a six. And in someone's eyes, it meant that I was a failure. Maybe not in so many words, but I did fail the Writing Proficiency Exam.

Words can't begin to describe how I felt. I take that back. I felt wretched and stupid. All my years of English and journalism training had been summed up to one evil little number.

I'm not quite sure if the WPE is an accurate test of intelligence or knowledge of the English subject. Truth be told, some of the stupidest people I know have passed that test. Is that too harsh? Sorry.

I can't help but be bitter. Here I was, walking into that classroom, sure as anything that I was going to pass. I've been a good writer my entire life, and surely this would be no different. Boy, was I wrong.

This is why I feel the WPE should be abolished. As college students, we have made it this far. We have already proved ourselves worthy of a college education. Why, after all the studying, tests and exams do we have to go through this?

Graduate student Garry Douglas said he felt the WPE is beneficial. "It's necessary for most students," Douglas said. "I think (students) should have to take a tutorial."

I understand and respect that, but timed writing situations just aren't pertinent to the work force or everyday life. The fact of the matter is, in the real world, you have time to formulate your thoughts, rewrite and change any writing that isn't cohesive.

Earlier in the semester, I was in English Writing 109, which is the dreaded class you have to take if you don't pass the WPE. The instructor stressed the importance of brainstorming or outlining.

On any given Saturday morning, it's unlikely you want to be in a cold, sterile classroom writing an essay. It's even more unlikely that you would want to extend your time there by having to write and outline before getting to the actual essay.

The WPE is anything but easy. Senior Shewit Tekle said, "It was really difficult for me. I barely passed with an eight."

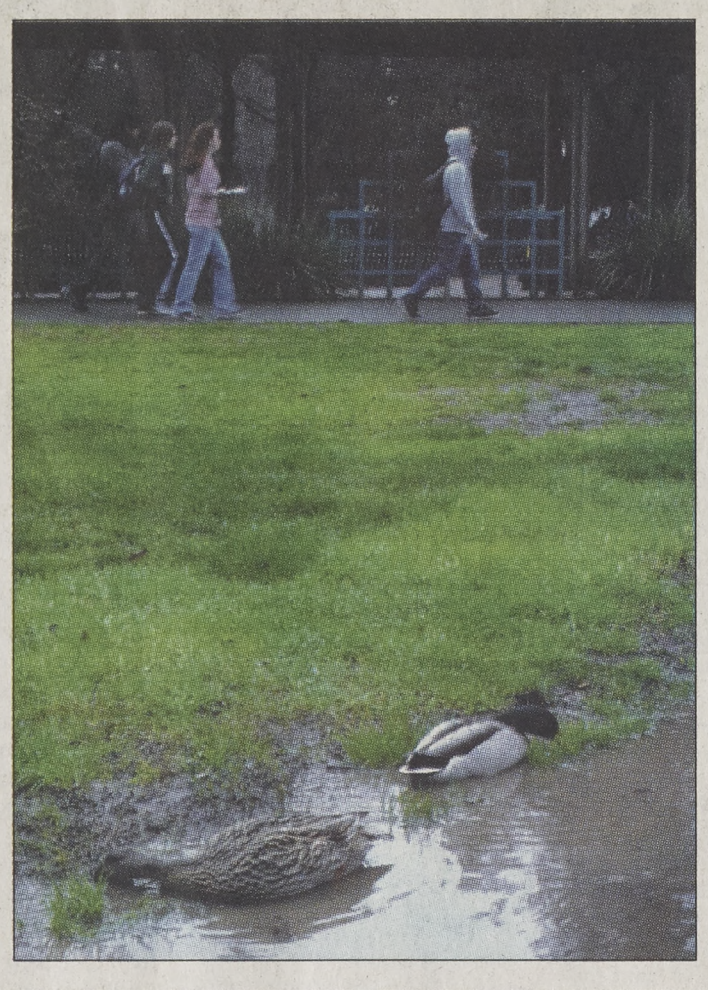
I struggled with this test because my topic was so broad. I felt I didn't have a chance to narrow my thoughts in the time given.

Along with my extreme disregard for timed writing and the all-out difficulty of it all, they charge us to take it! There is a $25 fee that needs to be paid before taking the test. As cheap as I am, I scoffed at the idea of having to pay $25.

Excuse me? You're going to charge me to take a mandatory test? Where is my money going? It's definitely not going to pay these simple ass students and professors to come up with better prompts.

All I'm saying is that if you're going to make it mandatory to take an exam, it should at least be free! Hell, I think there are a lot of other things on this campus that should be free, such as parking. Maybe that's why I have an unpaid, overdue parking ticket right now.

Oneika Richardson can be reached at opinion@statehornet.com



DUCK, DUCK, RAIN

Two ducks enjoy a soggy Sacramento State campus Monday morning as Northern California recieves some much needed rain.

LYLE CHAN/ STATE HORNET

Lawmakers want CSU audit

Legislative members request a full review of hiring and compensation practices.

MARILEN BUGARIN
State Hornet

A possible state audit of California State University hiring and compensation practices may shed light on the debate over executive compensation.

Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, chairman of the California Legislature's Higher Education Committee, and two other assembly members requested a full state audit of the CSU system's hiring and compensation practices in a letter dated Feb. 9.

"It concerns me that legitimate questions were raised in the media about certain practices both on executive compensation and how the CSU system makes its decisions," Portantino said. "Certainly, it's good to raise the questions, but I want to have the answers."

Portantino and the other authors of the request letter specified that the audit examined compensation programs for CSU executives, post-employment compensation, disclosure of special assignments, hiring practices and employment lawsuit settlements over the past five years.

In addition, they also call for total accounting of money taken in by the CSU system and its distribution by campus and academic department.

However, staff members at the Joint Legislative Audit Committee – the body responsible for making recommendations on whether or not an audit should be pursued – said starting the audit may take a while, since the committee is still waiting for its senatorial members.

"Our Senate members have not yet been selected, so we don't have a full committee yet," JLAC principal consultant Missy Johnson said. "There can be no hearing because we don't have a full committee."

Committee Secretary Katarina Maly said they don't know when they can expect to have a full committee, but should they choose to pursue an audit, it should take about six months.

Portantino hopes the committee will decide to audit, believing it will illuminate all muddled information for those involved.

"I just think it's time for us to shine some sunlight on these issues and get to the heart of the matter and make our CSU system what it should be – one of the finest education systems in the country," Portontino said.



Portantino

CSU spokesman Paul Browning said the CSU would benefit from the audit as well.

"It'll give (the CSU) the opportunity to establish and document all the facts as far as executive compensation," he said.

Browning said he believes CSU executives are presently under-compensated compared to university administrators around the country and hopes that the audit will show that.

"Their salaries are lower than the national average. Their pay is relatively low," Browning said.

Browning also said the CSU is willing and equipped with the resources to provide all the information that may be requested.

"We're completely open, of course. We'll cooperate fully with their requests."

Marilen Bugarin can be reached at news@statehornet.com



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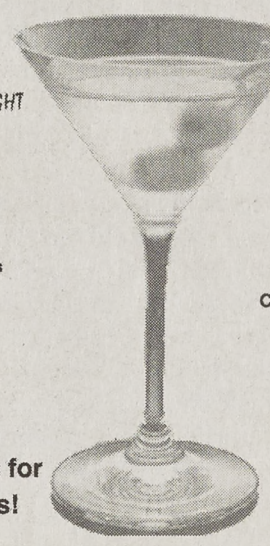
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3. Does your roommate borrow your clothes and never return them?
❑ Yes ❑ No

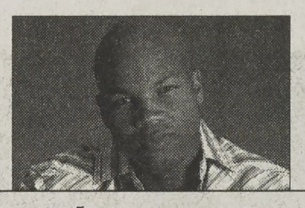
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FEATURES

Comedic trio performs today in the University Union Redwood Room

The State Hornet | February 28, 2007 | Spring Issue 5

Men's track takes Big Sky indoor title

GALEN KUSIC
State Hornet

Sacramento State track and field made a big statement this weekend, proving that those Big Sky sixth place pre-season predictions were way off.

The Hornet men finished as conference indoor champions this weekend in Bozeman, Mont. The women's team finished sixth, yet scoring the most points ever by a Sac State squad since joining the Big Sky in 1997.

At the beginning of the season, Coach Kathleen Raske predicted the record books would be re-written. Nine more school records this weekend can attest to that prophecy.

"We had a perfect meet," Raske said. "It doesn't happen very often. It was an incredible performance by all our athletes."

The Hornets won three events on the first day of competition. Junior All-American David Nichols won his second Big Sky indoor shot put title, Raphael McFarlane won the long jump, and Nancy Searcy won the women's long jump.

Nichols won with a shot put of 62-02.25, ranking him 10th in the country. He also broke Sac State and the Big Sky shot put record in his first competition of the year since coming back from an injury.

McFarlane's 24-09.75 jump gave him an NCAA provisional mark and a school record. He also placed third in the 55 meters, and sixth in the 200.

Searcy jumped 19-08.25 to win the long jump, and followed it up the next day with a victory in the 55 meter hurdles. She recorded an NCAA provisional and school record time of 7.83. Searcy also finished third in the 55 meter dash, scoring 26 points -- the most ever by a Sac State woman.

"It just feels like a blessing," Searcy said. "You win as an individual, but our team goal was to finish in the top three. I think we all know we're not a sixth place team."

The second day continued to roll as junior Jody Johnson won the 55 meters at a blazing 6.36 seconds. He also won the 200 meters with a time of 21.76. Junior Daniel Imlach continued to impress with a victory in the pole vault with a mark of 16-10.25

Junior Jeff Paneda broke the school record in the 800 with a time of 1:52.22 to place third while Robert Brazier smashed his own school record in the heptathalon with 5,046 points to finish fourth.

A.J. Reed placed third in the 55 hurdles with a time of 7.67 and senior Chauncey Corbin finished fifth in the 55 meter dash, (6.46) the 55 meter hurdles, (7.83) and the 200, (22.04).

The men's 4x400 relay team consisting of Corbin, Jason Nelson, Stephon Paige and Jermaine Wilson, finished second and broke the school record with a time of 3:15.54.

For the women, junior Lori Vaught tied a school record and won the Big Sky title in the triple jump with a personal best of 40-02.75.

The 4x400 women's relay team including Melissa Tracey, Anais Castillo-Springer, Carlyn Whitney and Tyreina Henley-Henderson, won with a time of 3:48.24.

Henderson also placed third in the 400 (56.67) and seventh in the 200 (25.48).

Everything came together for this meet, and was one of the finest days Raske has had as a coach, she said.



Imlach

The Hornets are looking forward to the upcoming outdoor season, in which they hope to do very well.

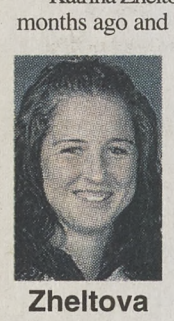
"I don't think many people believed in our ability to win a title," Raske said. "We went in knowing we could get a piece of it. The fire burned bright and it was very contagious."

Galen Kusic can be reached at sports@statehornet.com

Tennis player hopes to continue winning streak

SEAN WOLF
State Hornet

Katrina Zheltova moved from her home country of Belarus just eight months ago and is already having a huge impact on the Sacramento State women's tennis team. Zheltova is a freshman at Sac State and is ranked 58th for singles in Division I women's tennis. Zheltova also plays in the No. 1 singles slot for the Hornets.



Zheltova

For the past three weeks, Zheltova has been on a tear, earning three consecutive Big Sky Conference Women's Tennis Player of the Week honors.

Zheltova is 6-1 on the year in singles matches and 4-1 in doubles with her teammate, senior Cecilia Helland. Zheltova's only loss came in the first match of the season against defending NCAA singles national champion Susie Babo of UC Berkeley.

Babos is the 3rd ranked singles player in the nation this season for Division I women's tennis.

The match went three sets between the two, with Babos finishing Zheltova off in a tie-breaker (6-2, 4-6, 10-7). Former women's tennis coach and current Director of Tennis Bill Campbell said it was difficult for Zheltova because before that match she had not played a competitive match for eight to 10 months.

Since then, Zheltova has won six matches in a row, all of them coming in consecutive sets. During the current wining streak, she has lost only 11 games, and not one set.

"I knew from day one Katrina was a special player," Campbell said," I have been around tennis for a very long time and I can evaluate players very well when I see them."

Zheltova said she started playing tennis when she was seven years old.

"My parents wanted me to play tennis because they said I would be good at athletics because I have so much energy all the time," Zheltova said.

When she moved from the city of Minsk, Belarus to the United States, she said there was no pressure because she played on the national team in her home country for two years.

"There is different tactics here though, and different players. It's kind of weird," Zheltova said.

Team captain Joyce Martinez Gutierrez spoke highly of Zheltova's work ethic.

"She is so hard working and so into it. She gets up every morning and practices her game," Gutierrez said. "She is a very solid player all the way around. Her serve is amazing as well as her forehand, and she also has a nice backhand. She doesn't hit the ball, she kills it."

Campbell said Zheltova is a really hard worker and extremely conscious about her school work.

"When she gets her English down more fluently, she will be an exceptional student," Campbell said.

Zheltova is one of the eight players on the team from another country for the Sac State women's tennis team. Zheltova grew up in Minsk and said she has liked living in the United States.

The ones who have helped Zheltova adjust to her new surroundings have been her teammates.

"The team has helped a lot and everyone is really nice, everyone is always there for me," Zheltova said.

Coach Dima Hrynashka, who is also from Belarus, recruited Zheltova. Hrynashka told Zheltova there are good conditions here — better conditions than their home country. The two met when Zheltova first starting playing tennis at the age of seven. Hrynashka was her coach in Belarus.

"I came here because Dima came and asked me to come here. Dima is a really good coach. He works you hard and he's like a friend to me. He has always been there for me," Zheltova said.

Sean Wolf can be reached at sports@statehornet.com

JOYCE TO THE WORLD

Senior pitcher Mick Joyce tells the story of the medical procedure used to save his life, which made it possible to continue his baseball career

MARIO MARTIN
State Hornet

When Sacramento State pitcher Mick Joyce was 11 years old, a surgeon and his parents sat him down in a doctor's office and told him he would have to miss the entire little league season that year.

The young Joyce suffered from a congenital heart disorder called aortic valve disease, which caused a valve in Joyce's heart to leak and his pulmonary valve to balloon to four times the size of the average 11 year old.

To say the least, Joyce was upset; not because he feared the surgery, but because his dream to play professional baseball might be in jeopardy.

"When (Mick) went into the cardiologist's office, he was actually in his all-star uniform," Joyce's mother, Sheri said. "When they told him he was done (playing) and he had to have the surgery, he ripped everything off, threw his hat off and said, 'I want to have the surgery! I want to have it now!'"

In fact, when Joyce was asked if he had any questions for Dr. Vaughn Starnes, who is considered to be among the nation's top pediatric heart surgeons, he just had one: "Will I play again?"

At the time, the common medical practice to correct aortic valve disease was to implant an artificial or pig valve.

However, these procedures require children to take blood thinners and return for several surgeries throughout their childhood. These options would have made it nearly impossible for Joyce to have a normal childhood, much less pursue his goal of playing in the big-league.

Searching for other options, the Joyce family traveled from Temecula to a children's hospital in Los Angeles to seek the services of Dr. Starnes. Sheri said that a close family friend described Starnes as the "Michael Jordan" of children's heart surgery.

"We knew that we were putting him in the hands of the best and that it wasn't going to be a Band-Aid. It was going to be a cure," Sheri said.

Starnes met with the Joyce family to describe an innovative procedure, called the Ross Procedure, that he was having great success with. The Ross procedure uses the child's own pulmonary valve to replace the diseased aortic valve.

Then a donor valve is used to replace the absent pulmonary valve. Because the pulmonary valve is the child's natural valve, it grows normally, eliminating the need to replace it due to the maturation of the body.

After learning that the Ross procedure had a near-perfect success rate and it would allow Joyce to play again, the Joyces were left with no decision at all. This was the right solution for their son.

"We never even thought about it," Sheri said. "We were so confident that he would be cured and would be like everybody else, so there wasn't any other option."

The surgery would take a brutal toll on Mick's young body. He would have to wait for his sternum to heal before he was able to participate in any physical activity, and he lost a great deal of weight in the process. Following a

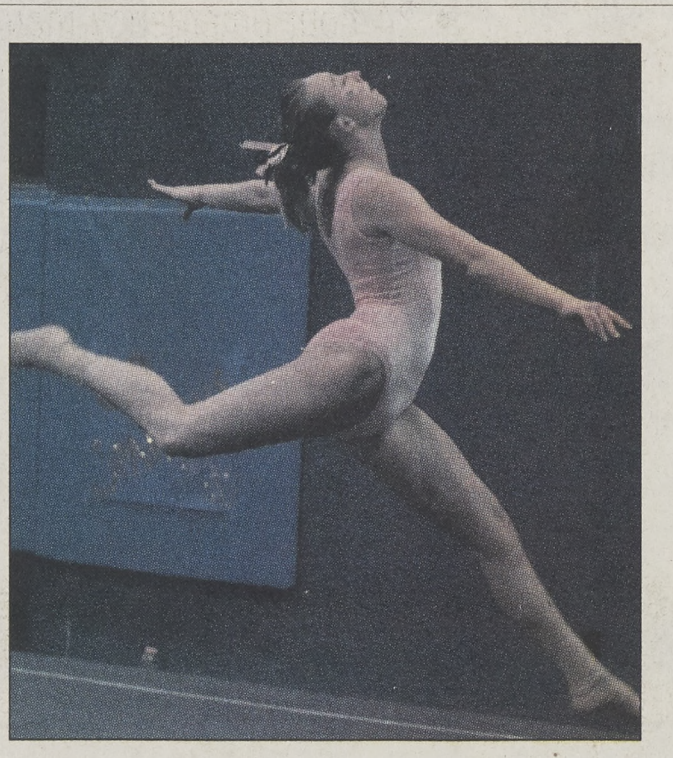
JOYCE: Page B2



PHOTO BY VINCENT BEIDERBECKE, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ARMANDO BOTELLO II/STATE HORNET

Senior pitcher Mick Joyce throws the heat in Sunday's 18-5 loss against Oregon State at Hornet Field.

Hornets defending the homefront



Freshman Eryn Stubblefield performs her floor routine on Friday in the Spartan Gym at San Jose State.

MATTHEW BELTRAN/ STATE HORNET

KARYN GILBERT
State Hornet

Sacramento State's gymnastics team has been on the move since the beginning of its season.

Six of the last nine meets have been away, but the Hornets will host a three meet stretch before the final tri-meet in Davis.

"Home meets are exciting. It's crazy fun. And fun to show off (at home)," said junior co-captain Melissa Genovese.

Traveling to other schools make some girls think about packing, planning meals and other activities while tending to travel meets.

Co-captain Nicole Giao said since the Hornets will be home for three weeks, they will have more time to mentally prepare for competition.

"It's less stressful. We can focus on what we have to do," Giao said.

Sac State will host three meets each Sunday beginning this week against the Pennsylvania Quakers. Cross-town rival UC Davis will follow on March 11 and Western Athletic Conference rival San Jose State University on March 17.

In his 27 years coaching at Sac State, Hughes said he has never faced Pennsylvania (8-6), but he is happy to compete against them in the Hornets Nest.

Genovese said there might always be questions when competing against someone new, but the team is keeping the focus on itself.

"Focusing on our scores is what we can control," she said.

Freshman Eryn Stubblefield said she wasn't going to concentrate on the minor details of away meets, but loves competing for her home crowd.

"You know you have people in the stands (for you)," she said.

The crowd during a gymnastics meet is another important factor.

Junior Giao said it gets the gymnasts excited to compete.

"It pumps us up," she said. "I always love the crowds."

The attendance was low on Feb. 16 during the 193.050-186.750 win over the Alaska Anchorage Seawolves, Hughes said. He figured the bleachers were empty due to the holiday weekend or the first and only Friday home meet on the season.

Stubblefield said the Hornets generally do better knowing people cheer the team on.

"Plus, it's always nice to have the stands full," she said.

Hughes said not everyone at Sac State knows there is a gymnastics team, and it doesn't help that the Hornets practice off campus.

The Hornets travel to Rancho Cordova where they practice at Sacramento Sports Center, Techniques Gymnastics on Folsom Boulevard.

GYM: Page B3



Freshmen tennis player Anton Stryhas practices on Jan. 7 at the Spare Time Indoor Tennis Center.

MARY CHOU/STATE HORNET

"He is hardworking and is a good role model for all the other guys on the team."

Warwick Foy
Senior tennis player

Tread softly and carry a big racket

Freshman Anton Stryhas is a making an impression on the Hornets men's tennis team

TYRONE BOWMAN
State Hornet

Freshman Anton Stryhas is from Belarus and got some offers from other schools to play tennis.

But Stryhas took Sacramento State's offer to heart. Men's coach Slava Konikov is from Stryhas' home country, which helped persuade him that Sac State would be a good fit.

After he made his decision, he took a 13 hour flight from Moscow to Sacramento. He made a pit stop in Los Angeles before landing in Sacramento. When he got off the plane, Stryhas thought to himself, "I am going to like this environment."

Since joining his new doubles partner, senior Gabriel Loredo, they have won their first three matches together.

When they are on the court together, they only think about tennis and try not to let their minds wander. Their success as a doubles team has helped lead the Sac State to a national ranking in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

"He plays very aggressively. I always wanted to play with him," Loredo said.

Loredo said he admires how hard Stryhas practices and because of Stryhas' work ethic, he is highly respected by the entire team.

One of the top singles and doubles players on the team, Stryhas has compiled a 4-1 singles record, 4-1 doubles and a 23-9 overall career record at Sac State.

"He is very hard working and is a good role model for all the other guys on the team," senior Warwick Foy said.

Coach Vyacheslav "Slava" Konikov and assistant coach Kevin Kurtz think Stryhas could add more topspin to his ground strokes, but praised his serve and volleying. Kurtz said that Stryhas is really coachable and always positive.

"I am consistent, I run a lot. I play more with my brains than power," Stryhas said.

Stryhas said that he has no particular weakness in his game.

Foy and Loredo both said they have learned a lot from Stryhas and consider him a friend on and off the court.

Xavier Barajas-Smith has been a friend and teammate of Stryhas since he got here. Barajas-Smith and Stryhas always hang out together and often talk about the differences between the United States and Belarus.

During the fall season, Barajas-Smith played the No. 1 doubles spot with Stryhas. They also have played singles against each other many times in practice, and Barajas-Smith said all their matches in singles have been competitive.

Stryhas has been playing tennis for 12 years. He wanted his life to be based around tennis and discovered that passion himself. At seven years old, he even went to a tennis school.

"Tennis is my only sport," Stryhas said.

Tyrone Bowman can be reached at sports@statehornet.com

JOYCE: Supported by family and friends after surgery

Continued from B1

seven-month battle to physically and mentally recover from the surgery, 12-year-old Mick was back on the baseball field and better than ever.

"He's overcome quite a bit in his life, and it's something that motivates him when he competes, and that little extra motivation helps him because the challenges on the field don't compare to what he overcame in the hospital having surgery," Joyce's father, William, said.

The big lefty would go on to have an outstanding career at Chaparral High School in Temecula, drawing the attention of several Division I universities, including Sac State.

Mick accepted a scholarship to come play for the Hornets, but in July of 2003, the summer entering his freshman year at Sac State, he got some dreadful news.

Mick, who is now 6' 2" and 220 pounds, would have to undergo a second surgery to replace the donor pulmonary valve that he had out grown.

"Mick's dream since he could pick up a ball was to play pro ball," Sheri said. "So when he was 18 and they told him he had out-grown his pulmonary valve and he would need another surgery if he wanted to play at the next level, it was a no-brainer."

Mick went ahead with the second surgery, but again endured great physical, mental and emotional setbacks.

Having suffered massive weight loss, Mick again went to work to get back on his beloved pitcher's mound.

Determined to join his Hornet teammates, he hit the gym, working out as often as possible in an attempt to come back in time for his freshman season.

Mick credits the tight bond he has with his parents and his brother Brian, who also plays on the Hornet baseball team, for his rapid and successful recovery.

"My mom and dad are unbelievable. They almost drive me nuts because they're always here, but I love them to death, and without my family, I wouldn't be where I am now," Mick said.

The family is so close that Mick's parents travel from Temecula to watch nearly all of their son's games.

In fact, if the Joyces ever miss a game, the team jokes that something terrible must have happened to keep them from being there.

Again, the family was right there to support Mick, but this time he had another motivating factor. It was someone he loved as much as he loved to pitch.

It was his girlfriend Summer Tobia, a senior at Brigham Young University. Mick is now engaged to Tobia and said that he was determined to show her that he would not let the surgery change him.

He would be back to the same old Mick in no time.

"She was the one that made me want to get back faster," Mick said. "Not just to ease her worries, but to get back and play and hopefully move on and start a life for me and her. That was what made me keep getting up in the morning and work."

Mick went on to make a complete recovery and was a key contributor for the Hornets in his freshman year. He appeared in 19 games, starting in four of them.

"It's amazing the things that he's gone through," Brian said. "I've never seen anyone go through so much, but he always just picks up the pieces."

Now a senior and the ace of the Hornet pitching staff, Mick takes a moment before each start to squat behind the mound and thank God for the life he has.

Mick said that despite everything he has gone through, he is truly blessed to have the family that he was given and to have a chance to pursue his dream of playing the game he loves for a living.

Mario Martin can be reached at sports@statehornet.com

On 2nd Thought.

Sacramento Kings' midway season review

Maybe it's good nothing happened



BENN HODAPP

Another year and the Kings have gotten worse — a lot worse. The trade deadline brought promises of Ron Artest and/or Mike Bibby trades without results.

I am thrilled that Artest stayed, but had the right trade come through, I was more than ready to book Bibby's plane ticket out. However, seeing as how the best trade out there was Larry Hughes for Bibby, I am glad the trigger wasn't pulled.

With all that said, here are some things I have to say about the team. Francisco Garcia angers me. Ship him out. He is a human turnover machine.

Every time he has the ball, he does one of three things: dribbles it off his knee out of bounds, misses a shot by six feet or makes the stupidest pass of all time.

I understand why the Kings didn't get rid of him -- it's because no one in their right mind would sabotage their own team like that.

Brad Miller is in the same boat. Remember when he looked like he at one time played basketball for a living? Yeah, me neither.

But I think there was a time when he wasn't complete and total garbage. He can't jump over two sheets of binder paper stacked on top of each other, and the one thing he used to be able to do (shoot) has evaded him in his advancing age.

Why did the Kings hire Eric Musselman? I bet Rick Adelman is sitting at home laughing himself stupid, and he should. This guy got into town and immediately got cited for drunken driving and proceeded to lead the same team that made the playoffs a year ago to a well bellow .500 record.

As a huge Kings fan, it pains me to say such a thing, but it may be time to start tanking. I'm not saying that the team should lose on purpose, but maybe Artest, Bibby and Martin suddenly succumb to "season-ending injuries" if you catch my meaning. I want as many stinking ping pong balls as possible when they pull one out in June.

If the Kings have any shot at Greg Oden, Kevin Durant, or any of the other excellent players available next year, they need to do what is necessary.

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MATTHEW BELTRAN/STATE HORNET

Sophomore Marina Borisova poses for the judges after landing from the vault.

GYM: Hornets 9-2 overall

Continued from B1

Hughes is hoping that Juniors Alexis Tsurumoto and Tiffany Bass will return during the Sunday meet. Giao competed in the floor event for the first time since her ankle injury during the Alaska double meet in January, in the Spartan Gym at San Jose State and recorded a 9.775.

"It's something I'm excited about," Giao said about re-joining the floor rotation. "We get to show off our personalities."

Going into the meet against the Quakers, the Hornets are 9-2, and 3-2 in conference. The record isn't the most important thing to look at when comparing one team to another, Hughes said.

"A win-loss record is only good on a weekly basis, but it doesn't help," he said.

San Jose State has been recording higher scores than Sac State, but the Hornets have the edge over the Spartans, Hughes said.

Hughes said the Hornets are within the top five in the region and in the top 36 in the nation, but there are still four more meets till the end of the season.

The Hornets competed Friday in a tri-meet in San Jose against the Davis Aggies (5-5) and host, San Jose State Spartans.

Sac State (193.700) took out WAC rival San Jose State (193.050), and cross-town rival UC Davis (191.450) in the Spartan Gym.

With the victory, the Hornets record their highest of the season.

"We are so close to our ideal scoring," Hughes said.

Sophomore Marina Borisova also recorded a high that night. She posted a 39.350, which tied the best in the school's history dating back to 1994, when Sac State competed in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.

The victory over the Aggies gave the Hornets an additional 1.67 points in the Causeway Cup standings.

Karyn Gilbert can be reached at sports@statehornet.com

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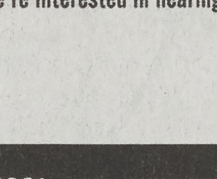
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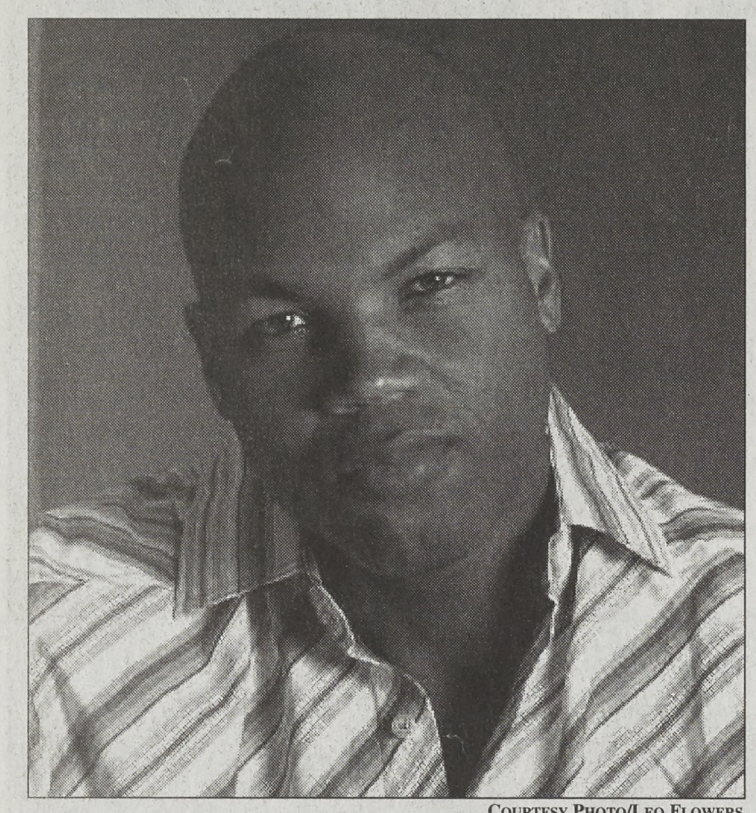
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Courtesy Photo/Leo Flowers

Leo Flowers, above, Mike E. Wynfield and Mo Mandel will perform today in the University Union Redwood Room.

A nooner just for laughs

The Good, Bad and the Ugly Comedy Tour brings three comedians back to campus to deliver laughs

Camilla Aceves
State Hornet

Once again, three comedians will be returning to Sacramento State to perform at the Nooner hosted by UNIQUE Programs today free of charge. Comedians Leo Flowers, Mike E. Wynfield and Mo Mandel will be making a stop on their college tour called the Good, Bad and the Ugly in the Redwood Room, located in the University Union.

Flowers, Mandel and Sac State graduate Wynfield were in Sacramento in September performing in the San Francisco Comedy Tour on campus. The turnout was about 450 people. The Redwood Room holds about 200 people.

Along with visiting Sac State, the three-member crew will be visiting other campuses around California. The event will last about one hour, and a big turnout is expected, said Zenia Diokno, UNIQUE Program Advisor.

Diokno has high expectations for the event, which is part of Black History Month. "Expect it to be a good show and people will definitely have a good time," Diokno said.

The three comedians decided to get together after the performance in September to contract the Good, Bad and the Ugly tour. "UNIQUE volunteers really liked these three guys specifically, and they were excited about them returning," Diokno said.

UNIQUE members aren't the only ones excited about the comedians returning to campus. "We are definitely excited to come back again," Flowers said.

Flowers,who holds a master's degree in counseling and psychology, grew up in Chicago and started performing five years ago at small venues. After his performance last September, he said he was able to hang out after the show in Sacramento. He wasn't able to do that with other colleges. He said that his favorite college campus to perform on is Sac State. Flowers was one of the top three comedians in the San Francisco Comedy tour last September. "We had such a great time, we decided we gotta come back," he said.

Flowers described Wynfield's skit to be personal, including topics like having a baby and getting married. Flowers selects his comedy ideas from his everyday life. "Whatever I go through, that's what I'm talking about," he said.

His performances include topics such as relationships, race and politics. "From working out to being a vegan to scary movies and crying in front of girls," Flowers said when describing his comedy routine.

Flowers said he sometimes feels other comedians talk about crazy things to try to be "edgy." He said if he talks about a serious topic such as cancer, then he would like a cancer patient in the audience to think his act was funny. "I feel like what I'm saying is coming from a true place," he said.

Flowers said he talks about taboo subjects in his comedy act, but he does not want the topics to be portrayed in a negative manner.

Future plans for the three comedians are to continue their tour across California college campuses and build

COMEDY: Page B5

The Good, The Bad and the Ugly Comedy Tour
What: Comedy
When: Noon, today
Where: University Union Redwood Room
Cost: Free

Master of the Bachelor's

Competition in job market may require students to go beyond a bachelor's degree to make themselves more marketable

Casey Farrell
State Hornet

After spending four or more years in college, the achievement of a degree will be a sigh of relief and a promise that more money is on its way. But how secure is your future with a bachelor's degree?

The normal education path assumed by most people in the United States is grade school, high school, then on to college if they want to make more than $30,000 per year.

As time moves on, more people advance on to college and more of them receive bachelor's degrees. With the number of people who graduate ever year, some probably can't help but wonder, "Is my degree even valuable anymore?"

"A master's degree is becoming par for the course now," communication studies professor Timothy Howard said.

As a professor and an active public relations proffesional, Howard gets to see two sides of the spectrum - the education side and the business side. He said he truly wants to see Sacramento State students become gems in society and knows that as the educational bar rises, he must encourage his students to press on to the top of their fields.

"I'm really considering going into the master's program for architecture because interior design is way too competitive in California," Nicole Marvin said, who graduated from Sac State with a degree in interior design. "Every time there's a graduation, another 50 new interior designers flood the market with the same degree I have, fighting for the same jobs I'm fighting for."

Many of your peers from Sac State, as well as colleges all over California, will be competing for the same jobs as you, and most of them will have the same degree as you. What will make your degree stand out from theirs?

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that people 25 and older with a college degree increased by 20 million in the United States between 1992 and 2004, which is almost a 50 percent increase.

According to the Office of Institutional Research, Sac State awarded 3,691 undergraduate degrees in 1990 and 4,953 in 2005. That means over 1,200 qualified people are out looking for jobs every year, more than there were only 15 years ago, and this trend is continuing.

Those 1,200 people are only from Sac State. That's not including the rise in undergraduate degrees from the other 23 California State Universities.

What about jobs that don't require an advanced degree, but will pay more if you have one? If you don't have the time or money to get an advanced degree and wish to pursue that kind of a job it means you would be competing against people with higher degrees than you, making it hard to gain a place on the employment ladder.

"In law enforcement, it's hard to move up in ranks without degrees. You don't really need one to be in law enforcement, but they don't rank you on how long you've been working there, they pay you according to your qualifications," Eddie Sapiro, a junior criminal justice major, said. "Basically, I'm just getting a degree to make more money."

Is it even about more money, or is it coming down to job security? Earning more money is great, but getting an advanced degree costs money too. You have to look at where you weigh in with the competition for jobs with only a bachelor's degree.

Statistics say the higher the degree you achieve, the more money you make and, more importantly, the more secure your job is. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that unemployment rates drop from 1.8 percent with a bachelor's degree to 1.6 percent with a master's degree, and all the way to 0.9 percent with a professional degree.

Maybe advanced degrees are worth the struggle to find the extra time and money.

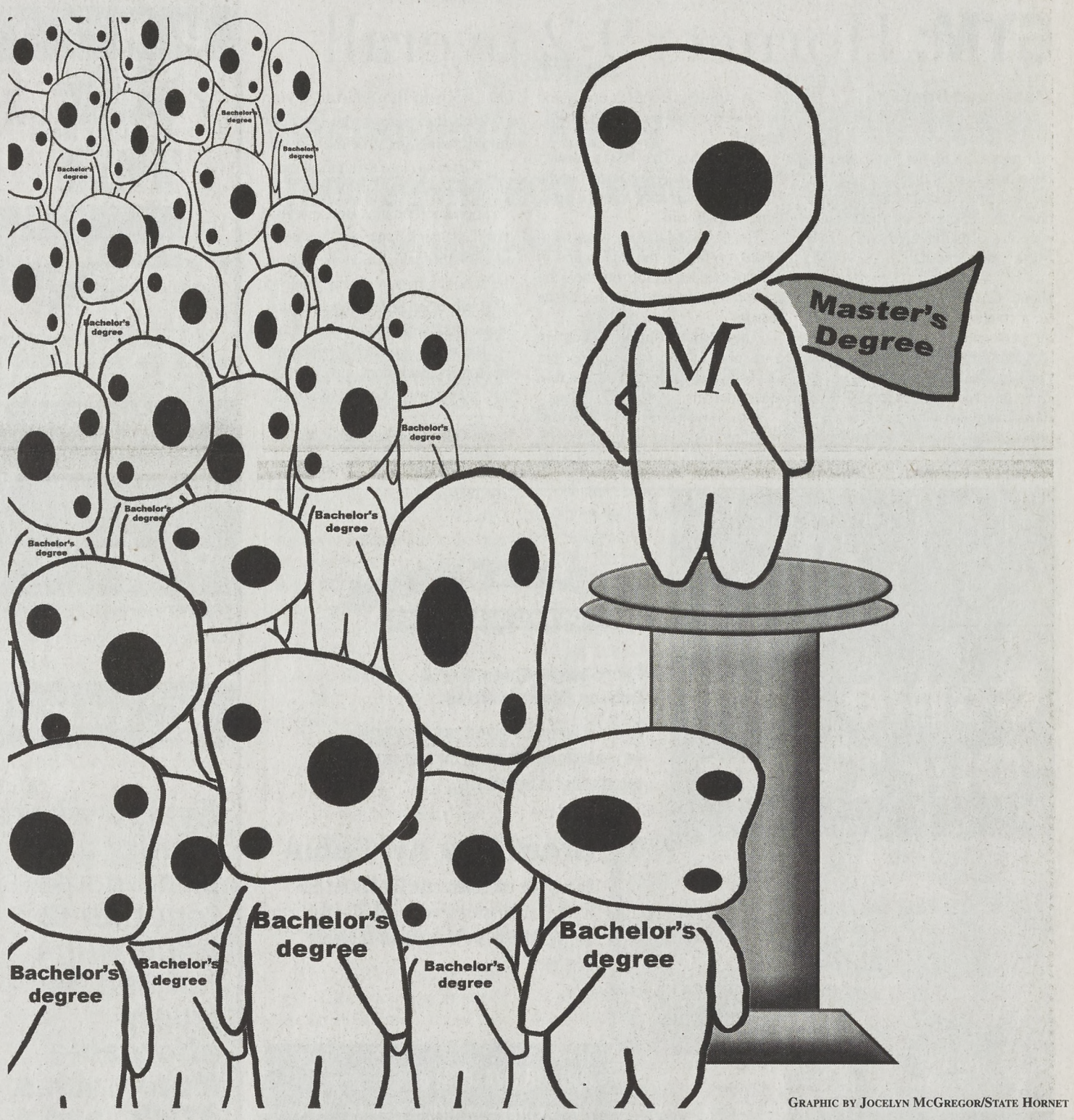
There are jobs that have always required higher degrees, like lawyers, doctors, architects and psychologists, and most students who plan on pursuing careers in these fields are aware of the additional educational requirements.

"I want to be a counselor at a high school, and when you're analyzing people, it makes sense to be required to have a higher degree," sophomore Megan Kemper, a psychology major said.

Among the most common majors doing graduate work at Sac State are education, health and human-service related majors. Currently, there are about 4,900 students working on their master's degrees at Sac State.

As the expectation of higher education rises, people continue to excel. The bar is going up and students in the next 10 years are going to look at education and the job market much differently than now.

Casey Farrell can be reached at features@statehornet.com



Graphic by Jocelyn McGregor/State Hornet

Students express creativity through campus signs

Students dedicate two years to new design work for campus signage project

Gia Vang
State Hornet

All around campus there are signs of major construction. But something else catches the eye besides construction: new green, gold and white directory signs.

Students, teachers, alumni and visitors are weighing in and deciding if the campus is either moving forward with the new signs or taking a step in the wrong direction.

The new signage project, "Way-Finding Program," designed by graphics design students at Sacramento State in 2004, underwent several changes and was implemented in October 2006. The project stemmed from a part of President Alexander Gonzalez's Destination 2010 plan.

The signs weren't implemented until the logo of Sac State was chosen so students could incorporate the new logo into the design, Robin Lovering, manager of project design and development on campus, said in a phone interview.

The project cost about $316,000, but there is still a rough estimate of $150,000 left in the budget, which came from a general fund the administration set aside to tie up the loose ends of the project, Lovering said.

Michael Fitzgerald, chair of the Faculty Senate and journalism professor, said the signs are a nice addition to the campus, but that he is concerned about where the money came from and the surplus money in the project's budget, saying that the communication studies department had to cut $135,000 from its budget, which meant cutting classes for students.

"The students will find the building OK, but they might not have a class inside to go to," Fitzgerald wrote in an e-mail.

There are a total of 109 new signs, beginning with five prototypes put out last semester, Lovering said.

Lovering said that they are putting together stage four, which includes replacing some of the old signs that are still in place and replacing parking signs, such as the ones that read "faculty only," "student only" or "30 minute parking."

Lovering also said they are considering fixing night lights on some of the signs that are not in lit areas, but will have to weigh the cost of the lights first.

John Forrest, an assistant graphic design professor, said that new signs were needed, but that the cost of the project was never discussed with the graphic design side.

He also said that it was a great opportunity for students when the idea was proposed.

Forrest said another reason the signs were needed was because people sometimes came onto campus and had no idea that they were on campus.

Reed Parsell, a part-time faculty member in the journalism department, said he couldn't help but notice the new signs even though he is only on campus a few hours a week.

"I'm a travel writer, and appreciate anything that helps point me in the right direction," Parsell said.

Matthew Stuart, a student who was a part of the winning design team, now works as graphic designer in the Marketing Design Department at Sac State. Some of the other students who worked on the project were J.B. Ganton, Laura Fontana and Heidi Jacobs-Barton.

There were suggestions made on the chosen design and details from the other teams' designs were incorporated into the final one, Stuart said in a phone interview.

"It was very exciting because it was a real-world project," Stuart said.

Lovering proposed the idea of student involvement instead of hiring a company to create the signs to the President's Board, after talks with the graphic design department. The board agreed it was a good idea.

The project took place in a senior course for graphic design majors called Corporate Identity and Systems. One section was taught by Phil Hitchcock and the other by Bill Olmstead of the University Union. There were eight teams created which consisted of four or five students between the two classes, according to Forrest.

Stuart said there was serious competition in the class. He and his group members stayed up late working on the project and, even after he graduated, he continued to be involved.

"It was a special opportunity. I just wanted to finish the project and be a part of it," Stuart said.

Neither Lovering nor the board gave the students or teachers any direction. He said they assigned the project, and the students and teachers took it from there.

Lovering said that there were some really clever designs that incor-

SIGNS: Page B5

SIGNS: Guide for the lost

Continued from B4

porated the American River in them, while others included the campus foliage. He said that people were pretty pleased with them after the prototypes were put out.

Forrest said that the students were trying to design something that had just the right amount of everything, was pleasant to look at, but still did the job of helping people around the campus. The signage fulfilled their idea, Forrest said.

Bow Lee, a graduate of the graphic design program who still visits Sac State periodically, said in a phone interview that the signs are refreshing to the campus.

"They are fancy, yet still simple enough to please the eye," Lee said.

Lee said the logo doesn't fit with the bottom cut on some of the signs, but that overall, the signs are helpful to students and sized well for walking or driving.

Lee also said that the students who participated have a chance to say they were part of the redesign of the campus and now have something to add to their portfolios.

"I would have been interested in the project if I were in the course that was chosen to create it," Lee said.

Franchesca Basa, a sophomore at Consumnes River College who plans to attend Sac State as a sociology major, said that her initial reaction was that some of the signs had too many locations on them, which made it confusing for new students or visitors.

"The signs aren't that specific, being that there are many locations on one sign that point toward multiple locations," Basa said. She said she thinks this contributed to getting lost recently trying to find the University Enterprises offices.

David Ramirez, a junior kinesiology major, said he has mixed feelings about the new signs. On one hand, he feels the money could have been used on things like more classes, but on the other hand, he said it was cool that students designed them.

"It leaves an imprint on what they did here," Ramirez said .

Tu Huynh, a senior communication studies major, said the new signs were a waste of money and the administration should focus on student academics or sports rather than beautification to attract future students and visitors.

"The students were just cheap labor," Huynh said.

Huynh said it was good that graphic design students created the designs and they probably feel really good about it, but that the amount of money the project entailed made it unappealing.

The design students physically researched and recorded how many signs there were on campus, Forrest said. The students found that the campus only had four or five large directories and smaller and outdated building signs, he said.

Tom Xiong, a senior social work major, said the signs are perfect and would have helped him when he was a new student.

"We should appreciate what work other students put in and I think they did a great job," Xiong said.

Gia Vang can be reached at features@statehornet.com

COMEDY: Everyday issues

Continued from B4

up footage from their performances to use for a promotional CD for next year's tour. They plan on touring on college campuses across the country.

Freshman Panhia Xiong, a graphic design major, has never been to a Nooner before, but said she heard about the comedy show from her friends. "I haven't been to any UNIQUE events, but I am going to try and go see the comedy act Wednesday," Xiong said.

Louis Ramirez, a freshman business major, also plans on going to the event. "I heard it was going to be a great show, and I am stoked to go see it," he said.

Flowers hopes that their performance will have an impact on the students who see it.

"For me as a performer, the most important thing is (that) when you walk away from our show . . . you're talking about it," Fowers said. He said that he wants students to say, "I never thought about that."

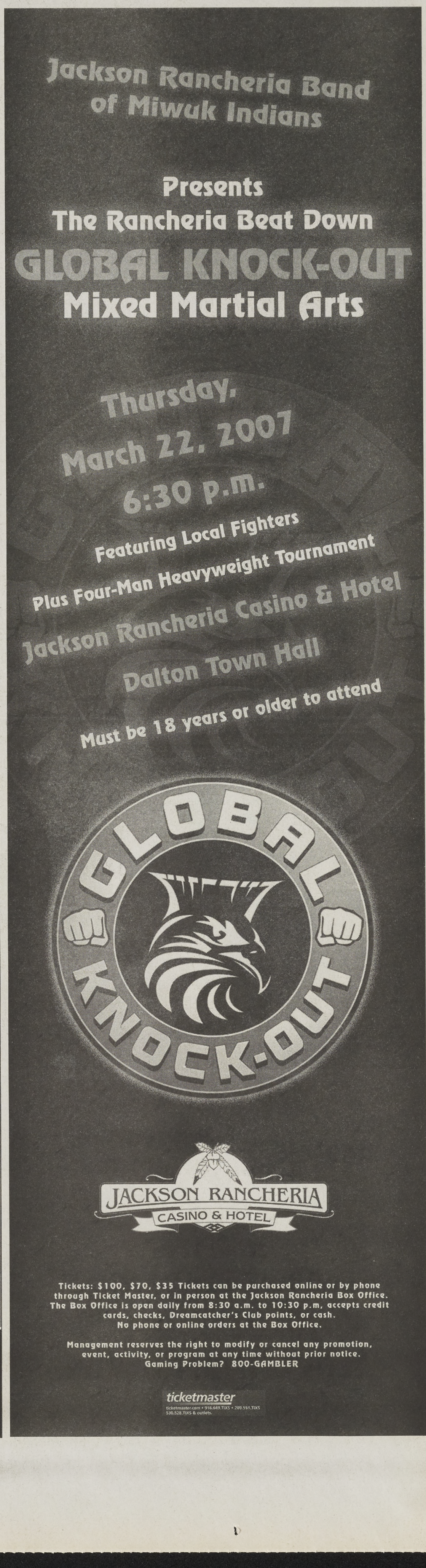
Camilla Aceves can be reached at features@statehornet.com

CORRECTION

From Issue 1: "Hmong Shaman Brings Healing Hands."
Hmong shaman Pa Lor's correct age is 28. Shamans do not hold bells in their hands, they hold an object called a chue, which makes the sound of a bell.
Shamans are not initiated into their positions, it is a natural gift that comes without initiation.Training for Shamanism does not only involve eating, sleeping and dreaming. During this period, Lor said she lacked the energy to do much because she was sick, but her spirit helpers would take over her body so that she could perform ceremonies.
Most learning happened during her first ceremonies. Lor did not grow up as a Christian. Her brother was a Christian and she would sometimes attend church with him.

Contact the print managing editor for corrections.
Call (916) 278-5590 or e-mail nikamegino@statehornet.com





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